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The Long Island FISHERMAN

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ISSUE NUMBER 21 ★ MAY 22nd, 1980

THE VOTE

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Volume 15, Number 21 — May 22nd, 1980

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COMING NEXT WEEK: **FLUKE FISHING**

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
Al Ristori — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett — NEW JERSEY EDITION
Scott J. Simons — EDITOR
Fred Golofaro — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tim Coleman — NEW ENGLAND EDITION
W. A. Muller — MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller — ADVERTISING MANAGER
Rick Reina — PRODUCTION MANAGER

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A STATEMENT FROM THE PUBLISHER

Setting the Record Straight...

Those of you who have been readers of *The Long Island Fisherman* for a few years will know how rare the occasions have been when I have felt it necessary, as publisher of this magazine, to make a statement to you. Usually these statements concerned the editorial policies that I have established for my editorial staff to follow: at various times my statements were to establish those policies, clarify them, or simply to just re-state what they are. The events of the last few weeks have been such that I feel a re-statement of our editorial policies is not only necessary, but mandated upon me at this time to respond to some of the misunderstandings and misjudgments which have occurred recently in certain quarters.

The editorial policy of *The Fisherman* is simple. For any given situation or circumstance, the criteria used for determining what our editorial position will be remains the same. This criteria is not, has never been, nor will it ever be, modified or altered for the sake of political expediency or financial consideration. The criteria used for setting editorial policy consists of a specific order of priorities, which I have been known to refer to as my *"What's Best For Policy."* These priorities, in their unalterable, non-interchangeable sequence are:

ONE. What's best for the fish and the marine environment?
TWO. What's best for the individual sport fisherman?
THREE. What's best for the sport fishing industry?
FOUR. What's best for The Long Island Fisherman?

The philosophy behind this order of priorities has withstood the test of time, which in this case is the fifteen years that this magazine has been published successfully with a growth rate far in excess of the publishing industry standard. Included in this growth has been the birth and maturation of our sister publications, *The New Jersey Fisherman* and *The New England Fisherman* (nine and seven years old, respectively) which form the other legs of the triad of publications known as *The Fisherman Group.* While *The Long Island Fisherman* is the largest weekly sport fishing magazine in the United States, the combined circulation of *The Fisherman Group* rivals that of the glossy monthlies that are circulated nationally. As publisher, I am of the firm belief that all of the foregoing can be directly attributed to this *"What's Best For"* editorial policy we have lived by.

Under close scrutiny, the philosophy on which this editorial policy is based is not as idealistic as it may appear to be upon first examination. Although *The Fisherman* appears at the bottom of the *"What's Best For"* list, an honest evaluation of the benefits derived from this order of priorities requires that it be viewed from a long range, pyramidical perspective. For in the final analysis, what's best for the fish and the marine environment will ultimately be best for the individual sport fisherman; and what's best for the individual sport fisherman will also be what's best for those who provide them with products and services, which is the sport fishing industry. If there were no fish to be caught, there would be no sport fishermen; if there were no sport fishermen, there would be no sport fishing industry; and if there were no sport fishermen to read a magazine, there would be no sport fishing industry to advertise in it. Therefore, there would be no need for the existence of a sport fishing magazine such as *The Fisherman.*

Last week we received many phone calls at *The Fisherman* concerning our recent series of articles on the saltwater licensing issue. Quite frankly, it was disheartening to hear accusations and innuendos that were so in

contradiction with reality. The saltwater license issue is one where emotions often run high, and as a result, a cloud of confusion seems to have appeared over what our responsibilities and motives as a special interest publication are. I thought that the time had come to set the record straight, to put things in their proper perspective.

ON MONDAY, for instance, I was told by an irate advertiser that we had no business "sticking our nose" into the licensing issue, that we should be doing something about pollution instead. At the time this telephone conversation was taking place, the United States House of Representatives was in the process of passing a bill, by a vote of 372 to 24, which will prevent the Army Corps of Engineers from continuing to dump toxic chemicals into the Long Island Sound. The portion of the bill that dealt with the Sound was drafted by Representative Jerry Ambro (D-East Northport), with whom The Long Island Fisherman and the New York Sportfishing Council have been working closely, providing him with the necessary data he requested and organizing the public support that was instrumental in the overwhelming passage of the bill, which makes passage in the Senate almost a foregone conclusion. And the questions ran through my head: who led the fight to save Romer Shoals? Who put the spotlight on, and called attention to, the PCB problem in the Hudson River? Who supported the Peconic Bay Sanctuary? Fought a bridge across Long Island Sound? Electric power plants on the Hudson River? And I wondered what the irate phone caller was talking about.

ON TUESDAY, one of my editor's handed me a letter from an industry organization that had the following admonishing opening line:

"While each person is entitled to his or her opinion, I question the propriety of an editor turning propagandist to push his own point of view."

And I had to take him by the hand (as publishers are wont to do when their editors begin having doubts about what their job is all about) and lead him to the dictionary, and make him read the following definitions of the word editorial:

> **[1]ed·i·to·ri·al** \ˌed-ə-ˈtōr-ē-əl\ *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or functioning as an editor **2** : being an editorial; *also* : expressing opinion — **ed·i·to·ri·al·ly** \-ē\ *adv*
>
> **[2]editorial** *n* : an article (as in a newspaper) expressing the views of an editor or publisher
>
> **ed·i·to·ri·al·ize** \ˌed-ə-ˈtōr-ē-ə-ˌlīz\ *vb* **-ized; -iz·ing** **1** : to express an opinion in an editorial **2** : to introduce opinions into factual reporting — **ed·i·to·ri·al·iza·tion** \-ˌtōr-ē-ə-lə-ˈzā-shən\ *n* — **ed·i·to·ri·al·iz·er** *n*

I pointed out the key phrases in these definitions: *"expressing opinion"; "expressing the views";* and *"to introduce opinions."* In my best "Dutch Uncle" voice, I told my editor that there is nothing wrong or sinister in a news media vehicle such as *The Long Island Fisherman* expressing its opinions and viewpoints on a topic of concern to its readership. That, in fact, is our primary *responsibility*. I told him that many people are of the firm conviction that this right of the press to freely state its opinions to be the most important freedom we have in this country, and had him turn to the back of the dictionary where historic documents are reprinted. I made him read the words that were adopted on December 15, 1791:

Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech or of the press."

It was no mistake that this statement is found in Article One of a document known as the Bill of Rights, and is usually referred to as the First Amendment with further explanation. If there are those who believe this to be "an exercise in propaganda," then so be it—their right to hold this opinion is protected by the same amendment.

We also heard on Tuesday from the offices of Representative John Murphy (D-Staten Island), and were told that the Studds' amendment concerning the bluefin tuna we have been fighting for was voted out of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee by a *unanimous* vote, and would be voted on by the full House of Representatives on the day this issue of *The Long Island Fisherman* hits the newsstands. We weren't able to get the bluefin under the protection of the 200-Mile Limit this time, but we won ninety percent of our goals in the amended version of the bill—which I think is pretty damn good considering the fact we were only a couple of ling jerkers taking on a multi-million dollar tuna lobby,

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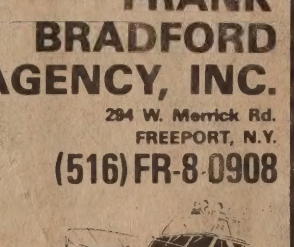

the U. S. Department of Commerce, the U. S. State Department and the Empire of Japan.

ON WEDNESDAY, we heard from a few people who said they have been fighting a saltwater fishing license for twenty years and winning the battle. These same people, upon questioning, did not know who Roland Kidder was. (An Assemblyman from upstate New York.) They knew nothing of the saltwater licensing bill he introduced three years ago. (Which contained none of the five provisions we feel a license *MUST* have to be acceptable.) These same people who claim to have been waging a battle against licensing were unaware of the contingency license sitting on a shelf in the local offices of the Department of Environmental Conservation in Stony Brook. They were unaware that recently in the State of Delaware a saltwater licensing bill was introduced that would probably be law today if it had not been withdrawn by its sponsors. How close can you get? They were unaware that in Maryland it is the no vote of a single county which has prevented that State from having implemented a license. They were unaware that there is a growing sentiment in Florida for a license, and that the *Florida League of Sportsmen* have drafted a bill to license themselves. They were unaware that every major saltwater sport fishing magazine has editorially supported a license *provided* that the money is used for the enhancement of the sport and the marine environment. They were unaware that every survey ever taken has showed that the vast majority of sport fishermen would support a license if the money was used correctly. They were unaware that virtually every nationally known sport fishing organization has reached the same conclusions as we at *The Long Island Fisherman* have: that a saltwater license is not only inevitable, it is a *necessity*. They are unaware that you don't have to be licensed to be regulated: there is presently a bill in our State Legislature (which stands an excellent chance of becoming law this year) which would give the DEC regulatory powers to set bag limits, seasons, and minimum sizes *without* a license. We are already regulated by the National Marine Fisheries Service for cod and mackerel, and it is only a matter of time before everything we fish for will be regulated by either NMFS or the individual states. They were unaware that the commercial fishermen on Long Island are supporting a DEC bill to license themselves, and can't understand what their motives are. They have been unaware of all these things, yet they claim to have been fighting a license for twenty years and winning the battle. Shadow boxing, perhaps...but hardly fighting and winning.

ON THURSDAY, I heard the accusation that we have given up the fight not to be licensed without exploring the alternatives. That we should be trying to organize sport fishermen to fight a license, even though we feel that this effort must eventually fail, with disastrous consequences. To charges that we have not tried to organize sport fishermen, and the sport fishing industry, I reply: seven years ago we invested thousands of dollars and hundreds of man hours informing the non-profit organization *Long Island Fishermen for Ecology* (L.I.F.E.), only to see it wither on the vine from lack of interest. Three years ago we invested thousands of dollars and hundreds of man hours in forming the New York Sportfishing Council, which fortunately has not met the same fate, *despite* the lack of participation by a sport fishing industry which has consistently shown its disinterest in the marine resource that is putting the bread on their tables. And one year ago we remember our Associate Editor, Al Ristori, addressing a meeting of boat captains from around the Island, urging them to organize so that they could lobby against the National Marine Fisheries Service, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the commercial fishing industry when the interests of sport fishermen are at stake...and we wonder if any of them ever gave his message a second thought after the meeting was over. As further proof of our efforts to see sport fishermen organize for the purpose of obtaining political influence, we point to our editorial support, monetary and space contributions to organizations such as the Marine Environmental Council of Long Island, the American League of Anglers, the Committee to Save America's Resources, the National Coalition for Marine Conservation, the Sport Fishing Institute, the International Game Fish Association, the American Federation of Anglers, the American Littoral Society, the Natural Resources Protective Association of Staten Island, etc. So if sport fishermen and the sport fishing industry on Long Island are still not organized into an effective political lobby, it is certainly not a result of a

(Continued on page 25.)

Contests & Tournaments

MONTAUK CAPTAINS ASSOC. CHARITY SHARK TOURNEY NEEDS PRIZE DONATIONS

Over a year ago, the Montauk Captain's Association proposed a series of fishing tournaments to be held on the east end of Long Island during the 1980 summer season. Our intent was that these tournaments would not only be unique but also beneficial to all concerned. Since that time, much groundwork and many man hours have been devoted to this endeavor and we are proud to announce that the first tournament has become a reality. On July 12 and 13, the Montauk Captain's Association will hold its First Annual Charity Shark Tournament at Star Island Yacht Club, Montauk, New York.

The concept of a charity fishing tournament is an idea whose time has come. In pioneering such an event, we chose two most worthy charities: the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Fund. I don't have to tell you how many lives are lost each year to the two dreaded disease these organizations do battle against. We have pledged half of all tournament proceeds to go directly to these two charities. Both organizations have sanctioned our event and have offered their total support.

It should be noted at this point that the other half of the proceeds will go to the contestants as prize money. There will also be awards in the form of marine equipment and supplies donated by people like yourself. The Montauk Captain's Association will not profit in any way from this event.

We have what is shaping up to be a fine tournament, one that has been widely accepted by the press and the fishing public. The judges of the tournament are three well known sports writers affiliated with three major publications. In attendance will be Jack Casey, noted Marine Biologist of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Tournament Committee has provided rules and regulations to assure this tournament will be beneficial to all and in no way a shark kill.

To date, we have some commitments from various marine supply dealers and tackle shops for prize donations. However, additional donations are needed. We seek your help to ensure that this will be the best tournament Long Island has to offer. So we ask that you done one gift to this worthy cause. Whatever the size, the gift will be greatly appreciated. We can assure you of publicity in connection with your donation as we have commitments for active press coverage. The Long Island Fisherman has also promised to list the names of donors in its publication prior to the tournament. In addition, your prize will be given out at the awards ceremonies in your name.

What we would like from you at this time is a letter of intent, indicating what you would like to donate. To ensure accurate publicity, we would like this letter by June 1, 1980. This letter may be sent to Jim Palumbo, 7 Scout Trail, Ridge, N.Y. If you have any questions you may call Jim Palumbo at 929-4782, or committee member, Tom Spica at 979-8672. We hope to receive your favorable response shortly, but in any event, we thank you for your consideration.

MAKO OWNERS' TOURNEY

The July Mako Owners' Tournament being held and sponsored by Al Grover's Marine Base will be held in Freeport, N.Y., rather than out of Center Moriches, due to popular request. Cocktails, T-shirts and much more for entrants. Dockage available. For further info, contact Al at (516) FR 8-0510.

BOATING

STATE EMERGENCY ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN WILL NOT INCLUDE BOATING RESTRICTIONS

James L. Larocca, New York State Energy Commissioner today informed the United States Department of Energy that the State will not include Federally proposed watercraft restrictions in its State Emergency Energy Conservation Plan, currently being developed.

It has been reported today that the U.S. Department of Energy plans to eliminate recreational watercraft restrictions from its proposed standby Emergency Energy Conservation Plan.

Commissioner Larocca stated, "The announcement of the Department of Energy's action to remove the recreational watercraft ban from the proposed Federal Standby

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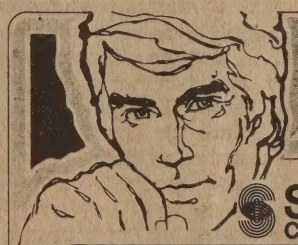

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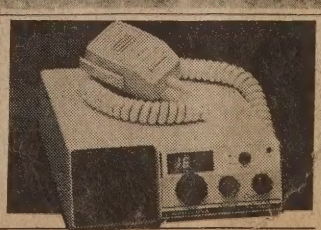

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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	2:35	3:20	3:45	4:30	3:30	4:10	4:40	5:25	7:15	7:45	6:20	6:55	2:45	3:20	5/22
FRI.	3:30	4:15	4:40	5:20	4:20	5:00	5:35	6:15	8:10	8:35	7:15	7:45	3:40	4:10	5/23
SAT.	4:25	5:10	5:35	6:10	5:15	5:50	6:30	6:55	9:00	9:25	8:10	8:35	4:35	5:00	5/24
SUN.	5:20	5:55	6:20	6:50	6:10	6:40	7:15	7:35	9:50	10:05	9:00	9:15	5:20	5:45	5/25
MON.	6:10	6:40	7:05	7:30	7:00	7:20	7:55	8:10	10:30	10:40	9:45	10:00	6:05	6:30	5/26
TUE.	6:55	7:20	7:50	8:05	7:40	8:00	8:35	8:50	11:10	11:05	10:25	10:40	6:50	7:10	5/27
WED.	7:40	8:00	8:30	8:45	8:20	8:35	9:15	9:25	11:35	11:15	11:05	11:20	7:35	7:50	5/28
THUR.	8:20	8:35	9:05	9:20	9:00	9:10	9:55	10:00	11:50	11:45	11:45	11:55	8:15	8:30	5/29

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

5/23	5:33	8:22
5/24	5:32	8:22
5/25	5:31	8:23
5/26	5:31	8:24
5/27	5:30	8:25
5/28	5:29	8:26
5/29	5:29	8:27

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
5/14	5/21	5/29	5/7

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM **Major**	PM Minor	PM **Major**
Thurs	—	**6:30**	12:25	**6:50**
Fri.	12:40	**7:10**	1:05	**7:30**
Sat.	1:20	**7:50**	1:45	**8:10**
Sun.	2:00	**8:25**	2:25	**8:45**
Mon.	2:35	**9:05**	3:00	**9:25**
Tues.	3:25	**9:45**	3:40	**10:10**
Wed.	3:55	**10:25**	4:25	**10:50**
Thurs.	4:35	**11:10**	5:05	**11:35**

Emergency Energy Conservation Plan as reported in today's news accounts prompts me to applaud your action and to inform you that New York State will not include such a measure in its plan."

"New York is carefully developing and analyzing a range of measures which will enable this State to meet established voluntary conservation targets assigned to it," the Commissioner stated. "New York's plan will not contain any recreational watercraft restriction for three reasons. First, there would be a minimal reduction in gasoline consumption—less than one-half of one percent, confined to a very limited time of the year. Second, the burden such a measure would impose on a single industry is inconsistent with the intent of the Federal law. Third, the potential harm to the boating industry at the outset of the summer recreational season caused by the uncertainty raised by the Federal plan as to whether the industry would be subject to restrictions later in the season must be eliminated. In order to offset any negative impacts the announcement of February 7, 1980 may have had, New York is today announcing that the weekend watercraft recreational ban will not be considered in the State's plan."

Commissioner Larocca's comments came in a letter to United States Secretary of Energy Charles W Duncan, Jr.

The New York State Energy Office recently completed a series of public hearings seeking comments on possible actions that may or may not be appropriate for inclusion in a State Emergency Energy Conservation Plan currently being prepared pursuant to the Federal Emergency Energy Conservation Act of 1979.

Pass It On...

TWO FOOTBALL FIELDS AND IT WAS STILL GOING

The longest cast ever recorded was made by Paul Kerry of Norwich, England, and resulted in his being named "Caster of the Year 1979" at the United Kingdom Surfcasting Federation qualifying heat at the Royal Norfolk Showground, Norfolk, England, last summer. Kerry's cast was 239 yards, 2 feet, 11 inches.

Using the standard authorized 5¼ ounce lure, Kerry set the record using his 6500 Ambassadeur bait-casting reel combined with an 11' 8" Garcia rod, both sold here by Abu-Garcia, Inc., a major U.S. fishing tackle manufacturer.

Len Borgstrom, the President of Abu-Garcia noted, "We were not surprised to hear it was one of our reels, just surprised about this amazing new distance record. All

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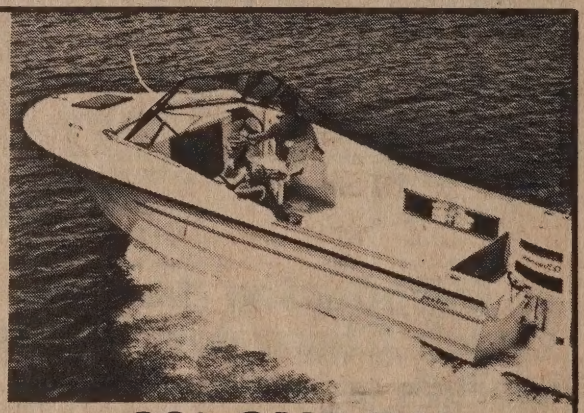

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the many entrants used Ambassadeur reels, they are the choice of the really big-league surfcasters all over the world, though they're used more for bass fishing here in the U.S. You see," Borgstrom continued, "there are different events for spinning reel users and baitcasting reel users. The entrants using the Ambassadeur baitcasting reels always achieve greater distances. That's why they are so popular in international surfcasting circles. While the durability and dependability of these classic reels is usually stressed here and that's what attracted American bass fishermen originally, the incredibly smooth, frictionless operation allowing for long, effortless casts is what makes them so popular with surf fishermen," Borgstrom added.

CORRECTION

In Paul Czajkowski's profile in the Canarsie Pier, he was obviously unaware of the closest bait and tackle shop to the pier, which is "Canarsie Sports and Fishing Tackle," in the shopping center at Seaview Avenue and Rockaway Parkway.

CLUB NEWS

BAY SHORE TUNA CLUB

The Bay Shore Tuna Club won its first tournament of the 1980 season. It was the East Anglers Try Club weakfish tournament. This gives the Bay Shore Tuna Club the second consecutive win with 3 consecutive wins needed to retain permanent possession of the trophy cup. Biggest fish caught by Walter Boren, 11.5; Fred Wills, 11 lbs.; Walter Kuszelewicz, 10.4. All Bay Shore Tuna Club members. A total of 30 fish were weighed in.

SURFSIDE III TUNA CLUB

The Surfside III Tuna Club reported the three top winners of their lounder tournament were: Ray Whitman, 2½ lbs.; Steve Makowski, 1 lb. 6 oz., and Gerry Bricker, 1 lb. 5 oz.

On Saturday, members Richard Ferri, Captain Frank Sterlacci and Captain Whitman took over 300 mackerel SE of the Fire Island Inlet in Lindenhurst.

ATLANTIS ANGLERS

Don't throw away those broken jelly worms and salty dogs. They can be quickly and easily repaired. The worm pieces can be fused together by lighting one end, with a match or lighter, placing the other end to the melted piece. The blowing out of the flame immediately after contact is made will solidify the two pieces within seconds.

INFLATION FIGHTER:

DISCOUNT COUPON OF THE WEEK

The *"L.I.F. DISCOUNT COUPON"* printed below is a regular feature of *The Long Island Fisherman* that we hope will help our regular subscribers to fight inflation. The coupons offer discounts on tackle, bait, marine electronics, boat rentals, fares on open boats and charter boats, etc. To use the coupon, just cut it out and bring it with you to the establishment offering the discount along with a recent copy of *The Long Island Fisherman* with the mailing label affixed to the front cover to prove that you are a current subscriber. If you are not a subscriber at the present time and wish to become one, just fill out the subscription blank that appears in this issue—which also entitles you to two free BOONE Shrimp Tout Lures as a free premium. Advertisers wishing to join the discount coupon program should contact Stu Miller at (516) 868-2391 *Today!*

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New Products

SUZUKI LAUNCHES EXCITING PROMOTION

Suzuki International, manufacturer of fuel efficient marine outboard engines, has announced plans for an exciting comprehensive national promotion for the spring of 1980.

Those who purchase any Suzuki outboard, from the popular featherweight 3.5 to the innovative oil-injected 85, will receive a fine quality, fully lined, cold weater vest and cap, at no extra charge.

The insulated vest is attractively designed in silver nylon, and the strong-seamed blue and white cap is fully adjustable. Together, their retail value is approximately $40. The gift-with-purchase program is designed to call attention to the entire line of rough and rugged and stingy with fuel Suzuki outboards. The promotion will roll out in April but, due to the anticipated demand of these premium items, the offer will only be in effect for a very limited time.

As a result of the promotion, Suzuki, which is already enjoying its strongest year ever in the marine outboard industry, expects to generate even greater interest in their latest outboard innovations, as well as their "tried & true" models.

"Suzuki enjoys a particularly desirable position in the marketplace, and the 'Hat & Vest' promotion provides an exciting way to keep our name in the forefront," said Terry Seiberg, Suzuki's National Sales Manager. "There's no question; it's an expensive program, but we feel it's well worth it. Our customers get a great incentive and our dealers benefit from increased store traffic. Traditionally, the more people find out about Suzuki, the more apt they are to buy. People compare and then recognize that there is a verifiable difference in performance between us and the other guys."

Seibert re-emphasized the $40-value gifts of cold weather, fully lined vests and attractive cap will go very fast, "even faster than hotcakes...as fast as Suzuki!" Those interested in taking advantage of the "Hat & Vest" offer should contact their local Suzuki dealer soon.

FISH TALK with William A. Muller

SUBTLE WEAKFISH TECHNIQUES

LILACS WILL BLOOM! It is inevitable that each May the lilacs will bloom, but the question for fishermen is will the weaks return? Sure, they'll return for at least a few more years; but the great year classes of the late Sixties have been well harvested by commercial and sport fishermen alike as well as suffering from the natural factors that reduce the sizes of the great schools. So, in the late Seventies and even more so now that we begin a new decade, the weaks are bigger—but they are fewer, too. Fewer and bigger weakfish means that the competition for food among the remaining adults is much less than it was five or six years ago. Therefore, those big fish aren't rushing hither and yon trying to catch up with enough bait to fill their stomachs. Those big weaks are smarter, too. As one old wise salt said: "They didn't get that big by being dumb!" He's right, you know; those big weaks are collectively more wary than many of their brothers and sisters who have long ago succumbed to a net or a lure. What all of this means is that it may be harder and harder to fool a spring weakie. We have had many reports from readers indicating that they took a few weaks, but it wasn't easy. We asked about the size and sure enough, it isn't uncommon to hear about fish that are ten, twelve or more pounds, but you have to work for them far too often. Thus, we all begin to search for those subtle tricks that will fool a weakfish and improve our catch.

NEW YEAR CLASSES? There have been rumors of recent year classes that were quite good. Reporters point to huge schools of juveniles in many bays. These young of the year weakfish are observed and at times, caught in the late summer. In spite of the fact that we sometimes see what appears to be great schools of young of the year weakfish, does that mean that there has been a great year class? It is very hard to judge that, however, since reports of great numbers of the juveniles have surfaced now from many places for about six years. Still, there hasn't been a great influx of three to five pound fish in the early spring. Why? Perhaps the hatches have not been as large as they would appear to have been based on observations of young of the year fish. Perhaps the mortality rate on these fish is so high that it takes a hundred-fold of the numbers we have had to make a big dent in the fishery.

WHY SHOULD WEAKS HAVE HIGH MORTALITY? In Nature's scheme of things, there just has to be a reason why this species can fluctuate so widely in abundance. A few outstanding year classes can supply an incredible number of fish, yet moderately successful year classes have little effect. The reason for the high potential productivity is related to the high mortality and is a reflection of the ecological niche of the species. Weakfish are basically ocean fish that migrate into the estuary to spawn. They quickly scamper back into the sea when the spawning is over. If the schools are vast, the inshore segment will be drawn out. The eggs and the newly hatched fish seem to do all right—provided there is ample eelgrass around. However, when the fish migrate south after their first summer, they must travel across hundreds of miles of open ocean with few places to rest or to hide. Thus, the predators seem to line up in wait for the young weaks and they are literally slaughtered by almost every game fish in the inshore sea—including adult weaks. Blues have the same problem, and again we note that tremendous quantities of young fish are produced each year. Bass do not have this problem because the young fish do not migrate out of the relatively safe estuarine waters until they are several years old. Therefore, ten or twenty million young of the year weaks in Great South Bay and Peconic Bay may be only a drop in the bucket. When they migrate south in the fall, it is possible that something less than one million of these fish survive the journey. If all this is true, then one can only imagine the size of the year classes that gave us the great early run of fish in this cycle!

SUMMER-RUN WEAKS? Much the same reaction results when fishermen experience considerable success with so-called summer-run weaks in our bays. These are smaller fish and they arrive in late July and often hang around until early October. These fish, which average one to three pounds provide fine summer sport. Based upon the experiences of solid summer-run catches, one can be led to expect fine spring runs of larger fish in the years to come. However, again despite three or four years of fine summer-run weakfishing, the spring run of weaks continues to decline in number but to increase in quality. Why? If less than ten percent of a year class survive their first southern migration (and that figure seems reasonable), many more die during the winter due to predation, disease, starvation, unexpected cold snaps, and a variety of other factors. Perhaps ten percent of those that made a successful southern trek will find their way north again the following summer. However, predation continues on the fish for several years at a very heavy pace since weaks aren't either as fast or as nasty as blues. Thus, by the time the fish are approaching the five pound class, their numbers have been decimated. I don't mean to be dismal about this, especially since I know that for many of us the weakfish represents one of the brightest spots in our fishing seasons—but reality is reality. Still there may still be one or two more fantastic year classes left in the species during this cyclic upswing. Clearly, by the 1990s, most of us will be once again asking—what's a weakfish? Those of you who now have young children can probably take solace in the fact that when they are young adults, that they will once again revel in the lilac/weakfish rush of spring.

SUBTLE APPROACHES! If all of this is true, then we'd best sharpen our skills at weakfishing. One of the best and most important developments, therefore, has to be the introduction of the rubber worm to weakfishing. The rubber worm has proven to be a tiderunner killer "par excellence." However, it usually cannot be indiscriminately jigged along if the fisherman expects to score consistently. The worm works best when it is allowed to sink near the bottom and then occasionally lifted off the bottom or dragged slowly along the bottom sediments. The worm should not be retrieved quickly, under most circumstances; and since the estuaries are usually loaded with weed in springtime, it may not be easy to work the worm slowly near the bottom without filling up with weed very, very quickly. The fisherman may find him or herself confronted with a serious dilemma: if I fish the worm correctly, I lose a lot of fishing time while I take off the weed build-up—but if I retrieve it more quickly I won't catch many weaks. Clearly, there is no choice here. To catch fish you must work the worm slowly and close to the bottom and therefore we will have to try to develop a very sensitive feel. Perhaps that feel can be refined to the point of detecting a change in the lure's action produced by the finest of algal hairs. In any event, the finer our touch sensitivity becomes and the more patience we can muster, the more weakfish we will catch.

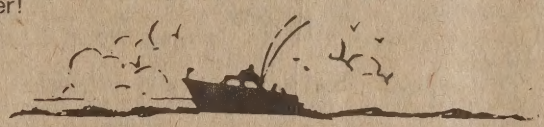
NATURAL BAIT MAY BE A PROPER SOLUTION! Indeed many fishermen have abandoned the artificial during the springtime fishing simply because they are bored with one, two, or a few more fish per day. Even when the weaks are huge, it may take more than three or four hits to fill a day's fishing. Sandworms fished from a high-leader rig have proven deadly. Now, they

aren't any more deadly today than they were a few years ago, but the fish seem to respond more readily to natural baits when compared to artificials. Thus, squid strips, clams, sand eels, and live snapper and tinker mackerel have also proven deadly baits at times. Of course, live bunker are deadly on the weaks when the biggest members of the clan begin to hang around the inlets in late summer and early fall. Grass shrimp, both for chum and on the hook, have proven for decades that there are weaks around when others say there are not. Note that a small hook (about size #1) should be used for shrimp fishing; while a much larger hook is better for squid strips and live small fish. I have had good success with 5/0 and 7/0 short shank hooks for big baits. Remember, with big fish and big baits you need a hook with a big bite! Sandworms may call for a hook of a size somewhere between the two extremes.

LIGHTER LINES! In this day and age, when the huge tiderunners seem too smart to catch, try using a much lighter line. Studies have shown that there are times when fish are so excited in a feeding frenzy, that it doesn't matter how heavy the line is or the leader. They are moving and feeding so fast that there is no time to discern line, leader, or terminal hardware. However, when the fish become bigger and more wary, they tend to react more slowly, they take a longer look at what they eat before they eat it, and they frequently shy away from baits at the last minute if line and hardware are visible. Thus, experts suggest using lighter lines and eliminating hardware altogether. If you use ten pound test, drop to six or even four pound test. If you find, for one reason or another, that you cannot remove at least one snap or one swivel, replace chrome finished hardware with black ones.

PICK YOUR SPOTS! Whereas all a fisherman needed to do was place himself somewhere in the vicinity of the scene of the crime to catch weaks, a more specific approach may take more fish now. Take Ocean Beach in the Great South Bay and the South Race in Peconic Bay as examples. Both are large, expansive areas and a half-dozen years ago there were plenty of weaks all along both areas. There are fewer fish today and those that remain will be gathered up in areas that will enhance their ability to catch their prey. So look for them around structure. What is structure? Structure is any kind of irregularity in the bottom: a rise, a ledge, a bar, a dropoff, a dip, or a hole. Groups of weaks will gather down-tide of a bar or ledge, for example, and the tide will bring small fish, squid, and shrimp to them. The fisherman who is familiar with the bottom terrain and can relocate over the same structure again and again with the use of shore ranges has a great advantage over the rest of us. In the absence of intimate knowledge and shore ranges, we can still utilize structure by using a depth finder. Today's depth recorders are far less expensive than they once were and they are both accurate and reliable. Many recorders will not locate schools of fish unless the fish are very, very dense, but they will tell you how the bottom changes. Locate the structure with the recorder again and again, and continue to work natural and artificial baits in the structure area and you'll improve your catch.

TIDBITS! There are other suggestions from the experts, too. One fella tells me emphatically that if the bait isn't fresh, don't bother going fishing. Another tells me how the lure must be flexible—whatever it is. Still another talks about the virtues of night fishing over the day. Well, you get the "drift." I hope all of you are having and will have a great weakfish season. If you have any secret weapons that you wouldn't mind sharing, send them in to me care of The Fisherman. Who knows, you may win a Shakespeare rod for that letter!



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NATIONAL SCENE
with Al Ristori

JAPANESE ENJOY BONANZA TUNA

According to the April issue of NOAA's "Southeast Observer News," Japanese longliners had an excellent month fishing on the spawning giant bluefins in the Gulf of Mexico. Twenty-one longliners concentrated their activities in an area about 180 miles northwest of Key West. It's not unusual for errors to crop up in this report, but if the figures are anywhere near correct, the Japanese have abandoned their pledge to keep their bluefin catch restricted to about 8,000 giants.

Indications are that 57% of the catch was tuna, with bluefin consisting of 43%, big-eye 8.7% and yellowfin 4.8% of the tuna caught. That would put them well over the 8,000 bluefin mark, as the total tuna catch through March 31 was estimated at 20,414—and seventeen vessels were still fishing through the first week in April! I suspect that, as always, the Japanese longliners will come up with lower figures than our observers; but another notation in the newsletter provides an indication that the Japanese are, quite possibly, trying to hide something.

The Southeast Observer Program is responsible for maintaining a twenty percent coverage of the Japanese longline fleet operating in the 200-Mile zone, but during the critical month of March (when the giant tuna fishing was at its peak), the coverage dropped to twelve percent. According to the newsletter, "the Japanese have failed to respond to the project request (for observer deployment schedules) by either not showing up at the pre-arranged rendezvous sites, or by replying that all their vessels would be leaving the FCZ within a few days."

Another sad situation this winter has been the high mortality rate on billfish. Swordfish comprised 15.6% of the total Gulf catch in March (and 95% of all billfish hooked), but the mortality rate was well over 90%. With the total billfish catch in the Gulf up to about 5,000, that's a lot of game and food fish wasted just so the Japanese can catch their tuna. Even the previously low shark mortality rate jumped to thirty percent in March. All of which is further reason to finally get a handle on this wasteful situation by bringing tuna under the 200-Mile limit. The Studds bill to only include Atlantic bluefins will help (and possibly eliminate this winter fishery in the Gulf), but ultimately we must take complete control over the fisheries within 200 miles in order to properly manage all of the species.

Caution Urged on Bight Dumping

James P. Walsh, NOAA's Deputy Administrator has urged that care and caution must be used in deciding whether to permit further dumping of contaminated dredgings in the New York Bight area. In testimony before the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, Walsh noted the several years of NOAA research has determined that the environment near the dredge spoil sites has changed due to the presence of contaminants such as the PCBs. The dredging operation re-suspends PCB particles in the water at the dredge site, and the dumping at the spoil site has the same effect. All of this could seriously effect commercial and recreational fishing, and appears to be in violation of the Ocean Dumping Act—which prevents the ocean dumping of any material [illegible] would adversely affect human health, welfare, or amenities; or the marine environment, ecological system, or economic potentialities.

As Walsh stated in his testimony, "This coastal area is heavily stressed and further introduction of contaminants will only make the problem worse." Amen!

Council's Reserve Provision Shot Down by Leitzell

An attempt by the Mid-Atlantic Council to establish a reserve of mackerel for use by domestic fishermen (commercial and recreational), in case they should exceed their quotas, was rejected by NMFS Director Terry Leitzell. The NMFS objection to that reserve involves the provisions for re-allocation to the foreign fleets—which NMFS considers too restrictive. We've all been encouraged by the improvement in the mackerel population, but the re-establishment of a directed foreign fishery is not a pleasant prospect.

The Council has been trying to build up the depleted mackerel population, with the assumption in mind that domestic commercial interests would become more active as the mackerel increased in abundance. With increased recreational and domestic commercial exploitation, there wouldn't be a large enough surplus for a directed foreign fishery. Presently, the foreign fleets receive only a small allocation for by-catch. NMFS (which sometimes seems more concerned with seeing that the foreign fleets get a "fair shake," than how Americans fare) has been pushing for a larger surplus of mackerel in order to make it easier for the foreigners to harvest other surplus species.

Unfortunately, little attention has been paid to the most important aspects of the mackerel allocations. Quotas are based on recent and historial catches, and little thought is given to how much biomass is necessary in order to provide a quality sport fishery. Nor is any provision made to restrict harvesting to times and places where it would not interfere with recreational fishing. For instance, the resumption of a winter foreign fishery will probably result in mackerel being caught before they come inshore along the mid-Atlantic coast. There might not be any impact upon the overall mackerel population, but that particular type of harvest could hurt mackerel fishing in the mid-Atlantic. Due to lack of knowledge, the importance of the mackerel as a forage fish for larger species has also been ignored.

Until we know enough about the mackerel and its place in the ecosystem to make some intelligent decisions as to when and where a surplus harvest can be taken by foreign fleets, without its having a negative impact on American fishermen, there should not be any directed foreign fishery. Optimum yield should be adjusted to take these factors into account. Even if the Council does this, it's not likely that the plan will be accepted by NMFS. Recreational fishing just doesn't receive much thought at that level. To give you an idea of the state of knowledge relative to our fisheries, check out this quote from Leitzell's rejection letter to Mid-Atlantic Chairman Captain Dave Hart: "Since the domestic harvest primarily occurs in the summer and fall..." That illustrates just how much Washington cares about the **spring** run from Virginia to Cape Cod, even though that Run has been producing a very large percentage of the total domestic catch for some years!

NMFS is also up to its old tricks again. Just as has been the case in the past, they are sitting on plans submitted by the Councils. The mackerel fishery management plan expired on April 1, the same day that Leitzell wrote his letter rejecting Amendment No. 1 to the plan. In order to avoid interruption of Managment of the fishery, emergency regulations had to be published in the Federal Register and the Council was given forty-five days in which to satisfy the objections to the amendment. In the event the Council doesn't provide him with what he wants, Leitzell stated "I intend to publish proposed regulations providing a mechanism which I deem appropriate." The effort within NMFS to make the Councils rubber stamps for NMFS policies

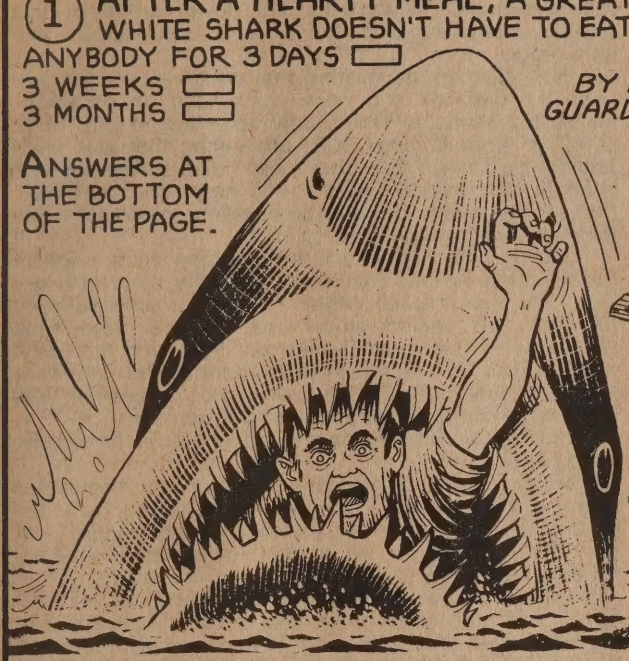
(Continued on page 29.)

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

BY FRED GUARDINEER

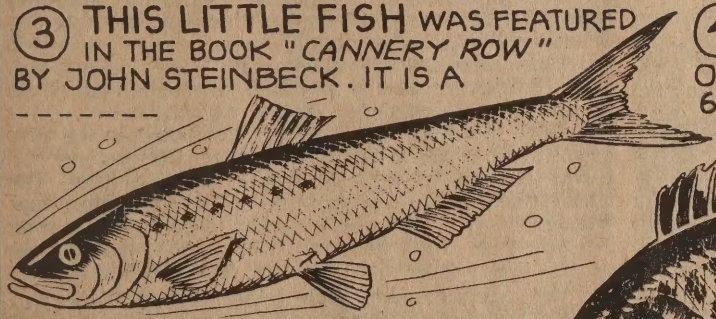
(1) AFTER A HEARTY MEAL, A GREAT WHITE SHARK DOESN'T HAVE TO EAT ANYBODY FOR 3 DAYS ☐
3 WEEKS ☐
3 MONTHS ☐

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

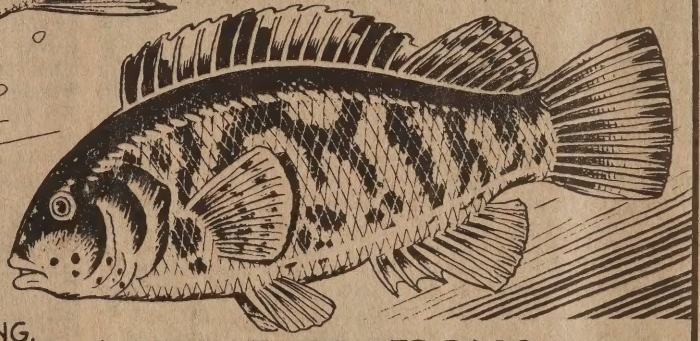


(2) WHY DO MOST GAMEFISH STRIKE AT A BAITFISH FROM THE REAR, A READER ASKS?

(3) THIS LITTLE FISH WAS FEATURED IN THE BOOK "*CANNERY ROW*" BY JOHN STEINBECK. IT IS A _____



(4) BLACKFISH FROM N.Y. STATE WATERS CANNOT BE BOUGHT OR SOLD IF THEY ARE LESS THAN
6 IN. ☐ 7 IN. ☐ 8 IN. ☐

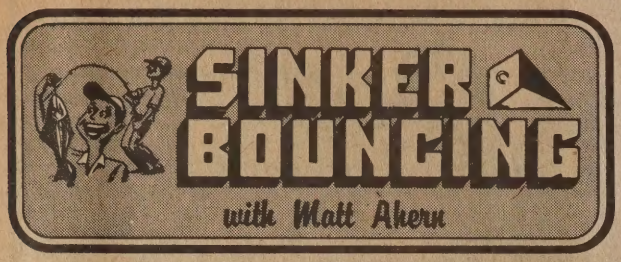


(5) CHECK THE STATEMENTS THAT ARE TRUE. *YELLOW PERCH*
☐ USUALLY TRAVEL IN SCHOOLS.
☐ SELDOM HIT SURFACE LURES.
☐ ARE READILY CAUGHT ICE FISHING.
☐ ARE FINE EATING.
☐ ARE NO. 1 U.S. COMMERCIAL FOOD FISH.

(6) A FEMALE STRIPED BASS MAY LAY
UP TO 40,000 EGGS ☐
50,000 EGGS ☐
60,000 EGGS ☐

1 - 3 MONTHS. 2 - MANY GAMEFISH DO NOT ATTEMPT TO EAT A BAITFISH ON THE INITIAL HIT, BUT MERELY TRY TO DISABLE IT. THEN THEY CIRCLE BACK TO DINE ON THEIR WOUNDED VICTIM. 3-SARDINE. 4 - 7 INCHES. 5-ALL ARE TRUE. 6-50,000 EGGS.

A skin diver skirted the length of Shinnecock Inlet's East Channel, Nick Hauck reached across the center seat, grasped the net, and calmly slid it under the exhausted fluke he'd just fought to the surface. He lifted the fluke aboard, inverted the net, and dumped the fish onto the floor boards. "This one's a



FLUKE FISHING

—PART ONE—

keeper for sure," he said. And indeed it was, being a good eighteen inches in length. He removed the hook and slid the fish into the bucket. "That makes four—not counting the throwbacks. And you didn't want to try it. Shame on you." When Nick says "Shame on you," it isn't a figure of speech. He means every word. And he was right. It was to my shame that I had attempted to talk him out of this particular trip.

But not without good reason. When Nick phoned the morning before to make final arrangements for this, our first fluke trip of the year, torrential rains drummed unceasingly against the window panes. And all this to the tune of a raging nor'easter which bellowed and boomed from the open sea as if through a colossal funnel. A nasty morning, truly one not fit for man or beast.

I wanted to cancel the trip, but Nick insisted the next day would be fair, the fishing surprisingly good, and cautioned against my hasty judgement. And because of these assurances, plus the fact that Nick and I have fished together for years—and is one guy who truly knows his fluke fishing—I had half-heartedly agreed to meet him at our usual place.

Now—as I sat out there in the skiff attempting to add another fluke to our overall catch—I was glad I did, for, just as Nick had predicted, the day was indeed beautiful. A bright sun glittered the inlet's surface, the freshly-washed, rich blue sky adding a fitting background for the vast armada of towering white clouds now inching their way along the line of drift, aided all the while by a soft westerly breeze. It was a day to be alive, to enjoy Nature at her finest. And to top it off, the fish were biting—just as Nick said they would.

Again Nick netted another fluke. "Never underestimate the ability of a nor'easter to improve the fishing," he reminded me, lifting the fish aboard.

Which was true enough, for certainly until then the seasons's fluke fishing had indeed been poor. Not that fluke weren't being caught, but those Shinnecock fluke fanatics whom I knew well had repeatedly told me that the summer's fishing appeared to be a lost cause; and yet local skin divers insisted that the floor of the bay was carpeted with many fluke of various sizes.

This dearth of fluke fishing action at the height of the season is a common occurrence and I know there are many sinker bouncers reading this who have seen commercial draggers returning with loads of fish in the midst of a sport fisherman's fluke famine. All of which convinces me that there are often more fluke available for us fellows than we have been led to believe. Because we're not catching fluke, doesn't mean they aren't there.

The only way I know to get around this fact is to use good fluke-catching methods.

I have found that proper bait presentation is the most important thing for fluke fishermen to bear in mind if they wish to become successful. Never mind how much you spent on your tackle because the latest designs will avail you naught if you lack fish knowledge. Fine tackle will certainly help you to better enjoy yourself, but it won't put fish in your bucket. Knowledge, and knowledge only, does that.

If you doubt this, recall the old-timer with his twenty-five cent dropline. What sport fishing tackle could be considered cruder than that? And yet, a dropline in the hands of an expert will outfish a rod and reel every time. It always did, and always will—but only if the fisherman who holds it is steeped in fish knowledge.

Now, I'm not advocating that we give our rods and reels the deep-six and once again take up droplines. Perish the thought. That's only reverting to the "dark ages" of sport fishing. But I am saying that with each season producing fewer and fewer fluke for the average Long Island sinker bouncer, it is high time intelligent thought was given to that area of prime importance: the fish, and not the tackle.

Fortunately, I've fished through the golden age of fluke fishing when a fish was practically assured every time the bait reached bottom, and I've also suffered through the period when one or two fluke was considered a fair catch. I take no credit for this good fortune, for I just happened to be there at the right time and had nothing at all to do with it. But because of this, I can make comparisons as to fishing methods.

Let's go back to the days of superb fluke fishing for a minute or two.

At the time, fluke fishing from party boats was done in this manner: drifting, just as today, was the method used. In those days, casting was permitted, and the fisherman cast out his eight ounce sinker, three foot, killie-baited leader, jigged once or twice and often without the necessity of wating for a bite, would haul back on his rod, or dropline, and come up with a fluke. It seldom took more than five minutes to do this when the fishing was good. Those fellows using droplines simply fished close to the boat. Either way, there was no diffuclty filling a buttertub with fluke.

Hard to believe? of course. But I kid you not. For proof, I refer you to any old-time fluke fisherman. If he doesn't tell you the same, I'll rack my rods.

Now, that's the way it was on good days in the long ago. But what was it like on slow days? Oh, yes, we had them, too—everything wasn't all beer and skittles. The least amount of fluke I caught on one of those slow days was four. (I won't tell you what the largest amount was, lest you think me a fish-hog.) Okay, then, how did we go about getting fish in the bucket on those slow days?

We experimented. We experimented with bait combinations and varous jigging methods. Unless someone caught a sea robin, our combination bait consisted of a strip of fluke belly and a two inch killie. We might use a smaller killie, or perhaps a larger one, but this was as far as we could go on bait. But when it came to individual jigging methods, we could really go to town.

We always kept in mind that the fluke were there—never did we consider that the fish had vacated the area. And this is what must be done today. Recall what was said about today's skin divers and the amount of fluke they see on bottom during our slow days. The fish are there, all right; they just don't feel like feeding. Therefore, it is up to us to change their minds—or at least try to.

One of the ways we did this in the old days was to vary our jigging methods. Instead of making two and three foot jigging sweeps of our rods, we slowed them down—sometimes to merely two inches, often with a barely discernible twitching of the rod tip—but always differently from the method used on good days.

Why those fluke in the days of plenty decided to play hard to get will never be known, but I'm sure I know the reason for many of the slow fluke-fishing days we encounter today.

Let's take the fluke fishing conditions that existed in the old days for comparison. In those days, there were more fluke available than the food supply could comfortably support. Unless a fish was on the ball and took advantage of every opportunity to secure food, it

went hungry. That's why a fish on nearly every cast was a common occurrence.

Now we switch to our times. We all know there are fewer fluke these days. Let's not kid ourselves on that despite the occasional good seasons and the good catches one sees and reads about in The Fisherman. These exceptional catches do happen, and they will always happen—no one is going to fish the ocean dry. But the average fisherman isn't in on too many of these good catches.

What happens today is that the fluke fisherman goes out there and drifts over spots containing many fish (unbeknownst to him, of course), but the fish don't bite. Why? Simple. Those fish have so much food available, there's little reason for them to show interest in any fisherman's offering unless its presentation is intriguing. Why should they?

Still not convinced this is the reason? Let me ask you something: have you noticed the glut of sand eels these past few years? When fluke were more plentiful, it was rare to see so much free-swimming bait in the water. There, I think, lies the reason for much of today's lackluster fluke fishing. A surplus of food. Nothing else.

Except for those occasional days when Nature plays tricks and disperses the food supply by freak storms, as it did the day before Nick and I fished Shinnecock Inlet, there's no reason for the fish to exert themselves enough to wind up in your bucket. But you can make them do so, or at least give them a good run for their money.

First of all, think positive. There's much to be said for this attitude. I've always noticed that the fisherman who has confidence in his ability to produce fish stands the best chance of doing just that. You can't go out there and convince yourself that if the fish don't bite, that's the way it is. It isn't the way it is at all. Those fish feed sometime during the day. It is up to you to present your bait in such a manner that those fish think the time to put on the feed bag is now. Never lose sight of the fact that fluke are gluttons. If you can play on this, you've got it made.

Forget much of what you've been told about fluke bait. If you see multitudes of sand eels hovering around your fishing area, why do you insist upon using them for bait? I like steak as well as the next guy, but if steak is all I've been eating for weeks, I might welcome a lowly hamburger. And so it is with fish—fluke especially.

Of course, the next question is: what bait should I use? Fortunately, there is a wide selection. Although all may not do the trick on any given day, I believe one or two of those that follow may turn the tide for you.

I don't believe there is a better fluke bait than a lively, two inch killie. If you run the hook in its mouth and out a gill cover, it will stay alive for a good, long time. The secret to using this bait is to fish it **slowly**. Few fluke have seen a live killie making two and three foot leaps along the bottom. Fish a killie naturally, as fluke normally expect to see it, and I'm sure you'll hit pay dirt.

In the long ago, we used to run the hook through the killie's eyes because we did much casting and this prevented the bait from snapping off. We never concerned ourselves too much with presenting the bait naturally, and two to three foot jigs meant nothing because the fluke were always hungry and, as mentioned, those fish couldn't afford to let anything resembling food get by.

But today, you had best fish that killie slowly. Don't be in a hurry to cover ground. Much of this control, of course, will be governed by the rate of drift, but there are phases of the tide when it slows, and there are areas where current movements are next to nil. These conditions present opportunities to use live killies. Don't overlook them.

Next on my list is a strip of sea robin. You'll find this excellent fluke bait to be tough, yet supple and difficult to remove from the hook—for both you and the fish. It is not unusual to nail a half-dozen fluke with one bait before it becomes too ragged for continued use. I've used sea robin many times in East Channel near the inlet and have no fault to find.

Sea robin preparation is quick and easy. Don't scale. Leaving the scales on makes each strip highly resistant to clever bait-stealing fluke. Use gloves when handling sea robins. Those spines are wicked.

Hold the sea robin sideways and make a cut to the backbone just aft of the vent. Slice along backbone to the tail and remove. Repeat on the opposite side, then cut each piece in half, lengthways. Doing this will give you two light and two dark pieces. Use the dark pieces over known sand bottom; the light ones over mud.

You can jig sea robin strips a little faster than killies. But don't be over-anxious to set the hook. Give the fluke time to munch. If you work it right, most of your fish will be jaw-hooked. Those that are deeply-hooked are telling you you waited too long to set the hook. But eventually you will learn the precise instant to strike. Don't overlook the use of sea robin strips. They pay off.

I've always been iffy about using squid strips for fluke. I know they work, but yet, I'm not crazy about them. Local squid is best to use, and if you can get this fresh from a local fish store, you will do better. Some fellows use squid in combination with other baits, but, for inshore fishing in particular, I'm from the old school which believes single baits to be much more productive. Save your combinations for use around inlets, or in the ocean proper. These, of course, are only my quirks asserting themselves; I'm sure the best way is for you to try it. Maybe you'll find I'm all wet.

When using fish baits—sea robin, squid, etc., it is best to fish these over sand bottom whenever possible. When used over mud, these baits pick up much sediment, and when this occurs, they should be changed. Fluke are rarely enchanted by mud or weed-stained bait.

Next week we'll get into proper fluke hooks, rigging, tackle, and whatever comes to mind, needed to put those finicky fluke in your bucket.

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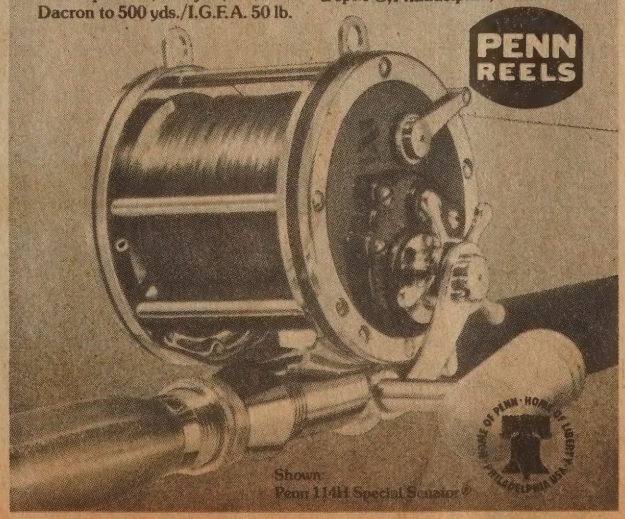

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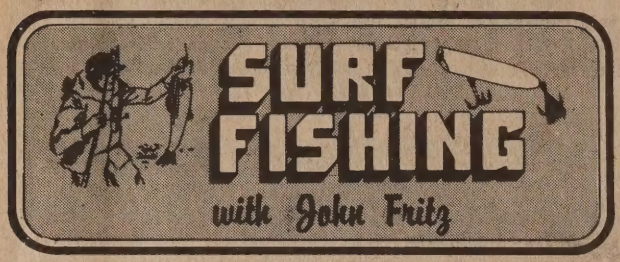


FLUKE FROM THE BEACH

As most of you who read the "SurfSide" column regularly are aware, my writings deal exclusively with seeking bass, blues, and weaks from the surf. This pattern is about to be broken, for I'll attempt to convey what little knowledge I've gained on catching fluke from the beach. Many of you are probably more practiced at fluking, but as some wise man once said, "Knowledge can be gained from many sources." From the limited view I have on this subject, maybe some forgotten detail will be resurrected, or even a new idea will come forth.

In reality fluke, unlike its cousin the flounder, is a predator who will eagerly pursue live baitfish, similar in habits to the more glamorous species of the surf. Live bait, dead bait or artificials have all proven acceptable to fluke; the one proviso being to keep the lure within a few feet of the bottom or to use the method practiced with leadheaded jigs: that is, to bounce the lure off the bottom. When fishing for other species, this technique could result in lost tackle if fishing in rock-strewn areas or when the sea bed is littered with obstructions. Not so with fluke fishing, for they prefer open sandy bottom where full attention can be given to working the lure without worrying about snagging bottom.

The south shore inlets are probably the best areas to seek fluke from the surf, although Shagwong Point at Montauk is, to my knowledge, the best fluke spot on the Island—that is, if a haul seiner does not curtail the fishing by dropping his net around your line. Limited action can be had along the eastern beaches of the north shore where the bottom is not covered with huge boulders. A hundred or so miles west, the sand bars in the vicinity of Great Kills Harbor in Staten Island reportedly is another fine area for fishermen pursuing these game fish.

When examining a few of these areas in further detail, it is apparent that open bottom is the place to seek these fish. At Shagwong the favored fluke spot is centered around the Point where the sandy bottom is constantly being re-arranged by the force of the sea. Here the fish often lie along the edge of the bar waiting for bait to be flushed to them by the surging currents. In Fire Island Inlet, there are several locations preferred by fluke fishermen. The most popular area is the southern shore of the Inlet or, if you prefer, the backside of Robert Moses State Park. While the Sore Thumb produces fluke throughout the summer months, this catch is incidental for anglers trying for weakfish. The area adjacent to the small jetties at Oak Beach and the Old Channel from the Thumb to Cedar has produced decent fluke in past years. Again, these areas consist of clean sandy bottom, except for a few mussel beds which emerge along the backside of Moses only to be washed away during ensuing storms.

Fluke fishermen, unlike anglers seeking bass, can pursue their sport in the light of day. On pleasant summer days, fluke fishing can be enjoyed by the entire family. Readily accessible areas such as Shinnecock Inlet west, Jones Inlet and the backside of Moses, offer good fishing possibilities within a short distance from parking areas. Locations like Shagwong and Moriches Inlet can be reached only with the aid of a beach buggy; therefore, anglers dependent on hard-surfaced roads would be better advised to fish the former areas.

The oft repeated rule to fish the inlets on the ebbing tide holds true for fluke fishing also, although strong currents encountered in the inlets often prevent bottom fishermen from holding. While this situation may be a nuisance, forcing an angler to pay strict attention to his line, it does not detract from his chances, for fluke will readily pursue a moving bait. In fact, one of the favorite methods employed by boatmen is to drift or slow troll for fluke. One drawback found when bottom fishing a moving tide in an inlet is the amount of weed collected by the line as the inner bays are flushed of the debris. But except in extreme conditions, this can be handled since the line should be reeled in when the terminal gear is swept too close to the shore.

Elaborate terminal gear is not necessary when fishing from the shore—beads, spinners and so forth, can be dispensed with. An acceptable rig can consist of a sinker, compatible with the tackle used, which will prevent the rig from sweeping too rapidly in the current. Smaller weights with less roll, can be gained with the use of pyramid-shaped sinkers rather than the common bank sinker. A long-shanked hook tied several inches above the sinker off a twelve to eighteen inch leader is often sufficient. In slower moving waters, a fish finder rig equipped with a cork to float the bait away from bottom scavengers is preferred by many surfmen.

The bait used can be the time-tested squid with or without the added killies or spearing, mackerel strips, sea robin belly or strips of the white underside of previously caught fluke. These baits are generally used when fishing for average sized fluke in the late spring or early summer. Later in the season, usually during the month of September, when the fluke congregate in the inlets prior to their departure, doormat-sized fluke can be taken using snappers fished either whole or altered with the head and tail cut off. Regulars working the east side of the Sore Thumb often take good-sized fluke along with their main quarry: weakfish. The terminal gear customarily used at this time is the fish finder rig baited with a live snapper. The live bait is hooked once through the meat of the back and lobbed gently into the swirling waters of the inlet. At this time, the popular long-shanked hooks are replaced by hooks with a short shank. This lighter and less obvious hook allows the impaled snapper more freedom of movement. Snappers can be taken from the cove to the rear of the east face of the Thumb, plus a fresh supply is readily available. A light, one-handed rod using small tins such as a one-eighth ounce Kastmaster or Hopkins is often sufficient, although some anglers prefer shiny, lightweight SideWinder or WobbleRite spoons. A bucket filled with seawater will maintain two or three snappers in a live condition until needed if the following precautions are taken. The water should be changed periodically to restore the oxygen depleted by the live bait or if it becomes bloodied from a severely wounded fish. Also, if the weather is warm the bucket should be kept in the shade so that the water does not become so warm that the bait will not survive.

Smart anglers fishing for fluke from rock jetties such as found at the Sore Thumb and Shinnecock are equipped with a long-handled gaff. Unlike beaching a fish on a sandy shore, a fish caught here must be lifted out of the water. Undoubtedly you have heard tales of the doormat that got away when the boatman did not have a large enough net or a handy gaff and tried to lift the trophy into the boat. Chances for trophy fish come all too infrequently for most of us, only to be lost because one was not prepared.

A superior gaff for this purpose is produced by the Safety Gaff Company of West Hempstead. This gaff features a unique locking head and is manufactured from rustproof stainless steel for the locking mechanism and head, with the shaft made of aircraft grade aluminum. Shaft lengths range from the short belt gaff of eighteen inches to eight-footers suitable for jetty fishing.

So far in this article emphasis has been placed on the customary method to catch fluke, which is by fishing bottom using natural baits. Remember though that the fluke is an active predator which eagerly attacks

(Continued on page 29.)

"Ten minutes in these rocks, but tough Stren® held him."

Jetty fisherman Harry Bode found out just how tough DuPont Stren® fishing line is.

"My plug was one foot from the rocks when a striper came out of the water and exploded on it," says Harry.

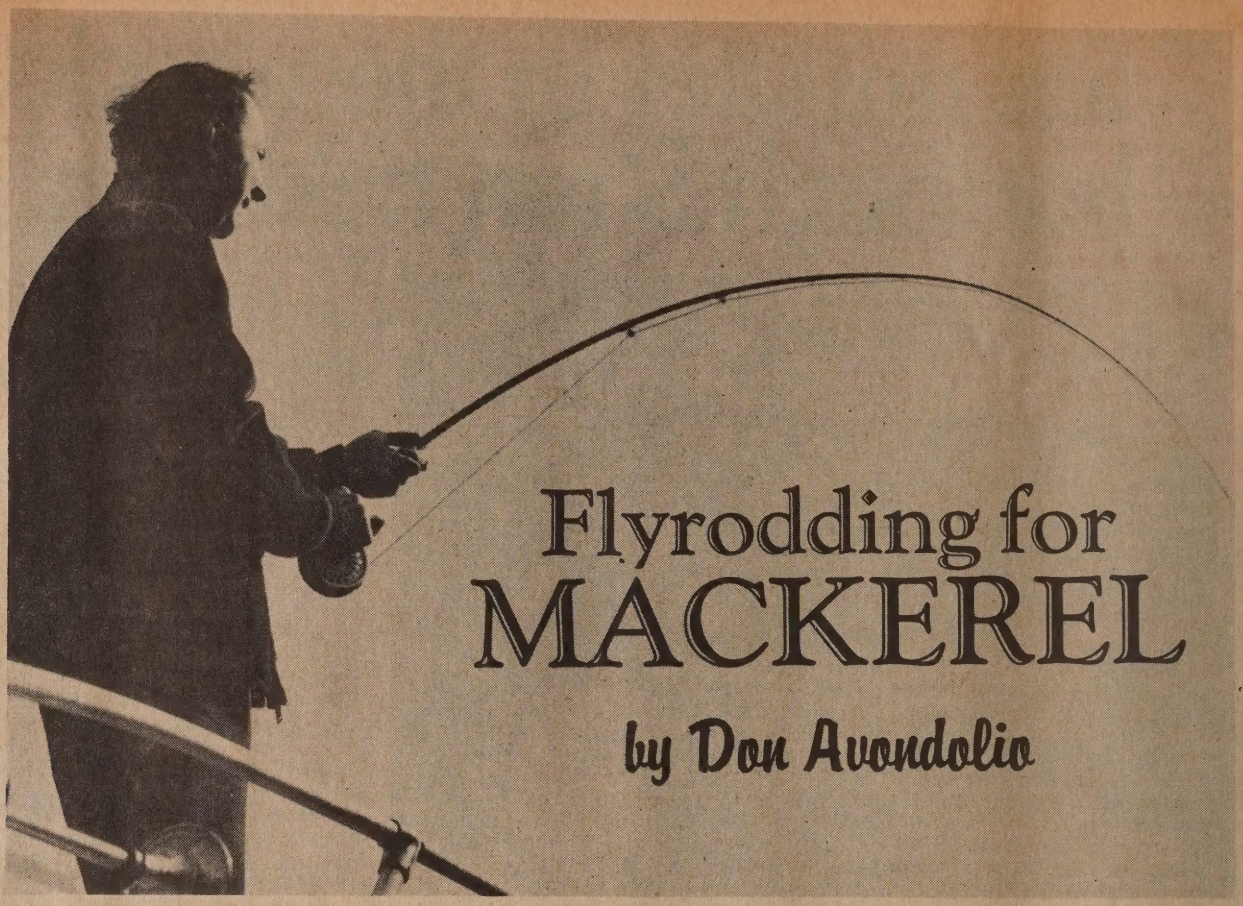
"I fought him in the rocks and on the rocks for ten minutes. I thought for sure he was going to wipe me out. I still landed him. There was nothing wrong with my line—25 pound-test Stren. That fish went a little over 30 pounds. It's hard to believe, but that stuff holds up."

Prove it to yourself. Fill your reels with Stren. And go get tough with a fish. Any fish.

YOU NEED TOUGH STREN.

DUPONT

REG. U.S. PAT. & T.M. OFF.



Flyrodding for MACKEREL

by Don Avondolio

Author fighting mackerel on fly rod.

It was the time of year when Atlantic mackerel were due in Long Island waters. Mackerel usually start showing in Great South Bay first, and a few weeks later in Long Island Sound. We knew this from previous years' records that we kept, noting the time and location of their schools. Our Almanac stated that they appeared mid to late April into May and left a month later (give or take a few weeks). This particular morning the winds were very calm, making the sea almost waveless which presented excellent boating conditions. It was unseasonably warm, and cloudy as we launched my 18' tri-hull at Lilco ramp in Huntington. Again, from our records, most of past experiences with macks had been at deep mid-sound locations, at or nearby the Lilco unloading platform. This is a huge mooring that is northeast of the Lilco power plant. Tankers moor at this location and pump oil by way of underground pipes to the plant. The area is considerably deep, ranging about forty to fifty-five feet deep mean low tide. At this location many cross-currents meet and conflict in force during both ebb and incoming tide. Baitfish such as spearing, small bunkers and sand eels have been prominent near this obstruction. Many chart recorder readings marking fish have been taken near this spot in past years to support my statement. In fact, while deep jigging this locale one year ago, several sand eels and small baitfish were brought to the surface impaled on our jigs' treble hooks. Thus, an ideal condition exists for attracting macks, weaks, blues, etc., to this area. The cross-current rips, the baitfish and the deep water combined with man-made obstruction: the platform moorings.

As my son, his friend and I approached the northeastern-most side of the platform, we were awed by the almost "glass-like" appearance of the water surface. It was unusual for this time of the year, although the "hot" August period very often duplicated this condition on the water. We felt that this condition would be to our advantage. One fact was almost certain: windless, calm days brought bait and predator alike to the surface, more often than during windy, rough sea conditions. It was the reduced amount of oxygen that contributed to this condition. Macks are known to require larger amounts of oxygen in warmer, more stationary water environment. Needless to say, it enhanced our fishing as we could spot potential top water action very easily. Using our binoculars we immediately noticed splashing on the surface in several far-off areas. Our job was half done, as spotting fish is obviously the first prerequisite to catching them. My son and I started to rig rods for action as splashes were getting more frequent. We moved to the area, cut the engine, and were almost stationary within the splashing area. My son was using his 8½' system 8 rod, and lead core fly line with a white fly. My rig was a "commonly used" saltwater 10 graphite 9' rod and floating weight forward fly line with a white deceiver fly. We both initiated casts at several surface spots being disturbed, each time hoping that our attractor would be taken. Almost immediately, I received a jolting hit and after a short, furious run or two, I boated a two pound mackerel. My second hit was peculiar in nature as this particular mackerel followed the retrieved fly almost to my boat's gunwale without taking. Within two feet of the boat, the fly was mouthed and only after a few seconds did he take solidly. The fish seemed to be playing with the fly and not intending to swallow it. Meanwhile, my son was having trouble finding fish at deeper depths so he decided to change to a floating line. Evidently the fish were scattered and feeding at surface level only. That did it: he then fought several mackerel in succession to capture. These fish were chasing sand eels and our fly was a perfect imitator by shape, size, color and action. Another significant fact was that the fly's saddle hackle feathers seemed to undulate realistically very similar to an eel-like motion when retrieved from side-to-side. We caught and released several more fish and ultimately had to quit before we got arm-weary. As most fishermen will attest to, once a

school of macks is located, many a fish can be taken unless the school decides to suddenly relocate.

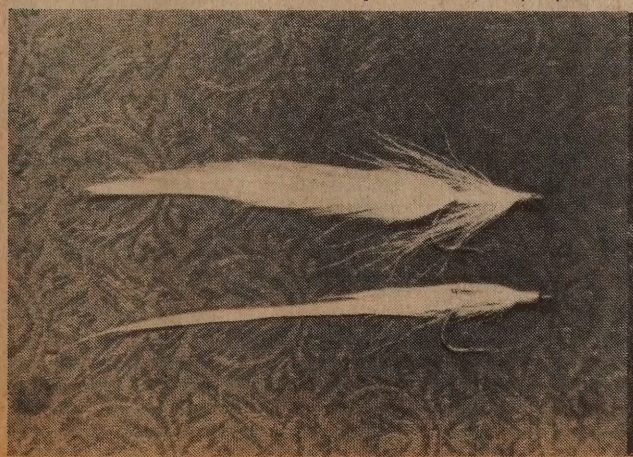
Fly tackle for these fast-moving, streamlined fish varies according to the individual. But for best ultra-light action, a trout or bass type fly rod of eight to nine feet long will do nicely. Your rod should be constructed of Fiberglas material with stainless steel guides and corrosion-resistant reel seat. A single action reel (also made from corrosion-resistant materials) with a capacity of 100 yards of backing and fly line is a perfect match up to this rod. Drag mechanism should be as simple as possible and even a rim control style reel will perform the job. With the ever-changing state of fly tackle available, one can almost choose a line to meet any saltwater situation. If turbulent, deep water penetration is your objective, then various Hi-D types of sinking lines are your choice. For moderate or shallow depths, other lines are available, and last, but not least—floating, or tip, belly, head partial sink lines complete the picture. Remember, as current, retrieve speed and depth to be fished is increased—so shall the weight of the fly line. Also saltwater buoyancy is higher than freshwater and should be considered in your choice of line size. If you intend to do some serious boat fly fishing, try to buy one of each type of line to ready yourself for any situation encountered. As for the leader (the invisible attachment from fly to fly line), I prefer a length equal to the rod length approximately for a surface fly presentation. Or if a deep water presentation is required, I shorten the leader to a three or four foot length. Ten or twelve pound test, fairly stiff monofilament or nylon leader material is more than adequate for mackerel fishing. Our macks were taken on long shank hooks, eliminating the need for heavy mono or wire tippets; mackerel teeth can cut through small leaders if they are bitten above the hook eye. The deceiver patterns used were tied using very long (six inch) saddle hackle feathers (white) combined with a size 1/0 long shank hook. The huge populations of sand eels in Long Island Sound for the past four or five years are reason enough to use this popular imitator. A few strands of silver mylar tied to both sides of the hook shank side adds fish attractiveness. I always suggest simulating the bait length and appearance in the area for best possible results.

"Boat fly fishing" offers more mobility than surf fishing and easier locating of fish schools. Mackerel are often located in deep water pockets and, unfortunately (for surfers), a mack is seldom caught near the shore line. In addition, fly fishing from a boat places you ideally higher on the water, enabling you to cast better and also to retrieve easier. Shorter casts can be made to advantage because of the ability to use wind and current flow to your advantage. Also, fly line water resistance is reduced by the higher angle of rod tip to water that is produced from your platform and a smoother, easier cast pick-up is evident—especially when using a floating fly line.

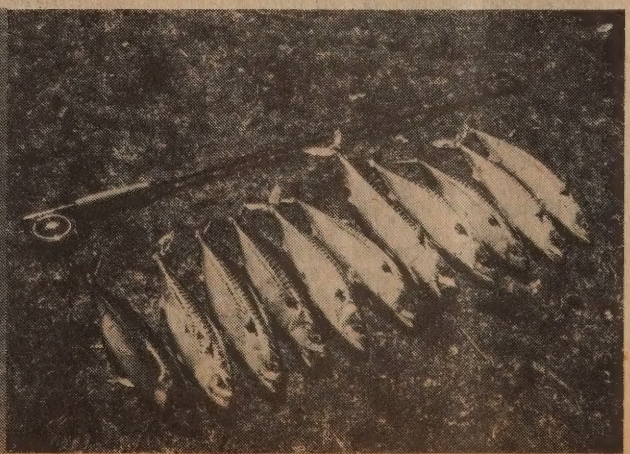
Mackerel tend to be an oily fish unless prepared and seasoned properly. It can be an unpopular taste to most persons. I prefer to cook this species on a smoker which produces a fine taste for an oily fish. Most fishermen will save extra macks for prime bait and freeze them either whole or in two inch wide chunks. A discarded milk container can be used to store ground up mackerel for chum. This container is frozen and when needed, the wrapper is removed and the contents are placed in a chum bucket. The oily aroma that attracts predators is produced from normal current flow through the bucket. In this situation, a Hi-D type of fly line would be your best choice.

Finding these fish is not easy at times, but with a few facts in mind the problem can be approached more intelligently. First, these fish prefer water temperatures from 44° to 68° and are constantly on the move, attracted to baitfish in congregated schools or clusters. If macks are not obvious on the surface, use a chart recorder and move from locale to locale (sites recommended by your tackle dealer or local fishing reports). Often by ladling a bit at a time of chum, you will attract macks to your location. Try a half-hour of chumming in one spot and move on to another until results are obtained. Mackerel are migratory in nature and only a constant supply of food will attract them to one area and keep them there. They are notorious for changing locations from day to day; thus a fisherman must keep abreast of their latest locations by means of radio, news report, and Long Island Fisherman information. Birds working the surface are another good indicator of mnackerel schools.

The ever-growing popularity of saltwater fly fishing can be attributed to several facts. As I mentioned previously, the upgrading of tackle such as lightweight, powerful graphite and boron rods that produce long casts with a minimum of effort and weight. Include the new different fly lines that penetrate current rips and produce depth that was prohibited in previous years. Also, the smooth-finished, frictionless fly lines that glide through rod guides and shooting heads that produce extra distance when demanded. Innovations with fly tying materials are constantly being introduced that enable the tyer to almost duplicate any swimming creature by color, texture, shape and action. The latter are only a few examples among many factors that keep the sport of fly fishing alive. We should also include the most important ingredient: the predator fish—blue, bass, weak, fluke, marlin, and shark—which are part of saltwater fly fishing. But the mackerel, sometimes overlooked because of its short duration in our waters and small size (comparatively speaking), is a surprisingly strong fighter when handled with a light fly rod. Just remember that this fish is a relative of the tuna, albacore and bonito family which are all known for strength and speed. So try your skill and luck with the mackerel on a fly rod and maybe you'll agree with me that this two pound fish can produce fast, furious and plentiful action. Possibly this year there will be more than one boat fishing the Lilco platform with a fly rod.



***Leftys Deceiver,* shown tied, and wet at bottom.**



Mackerel caught on fly rod at Lilco Platform.

WEAKFISH COMING OUT!

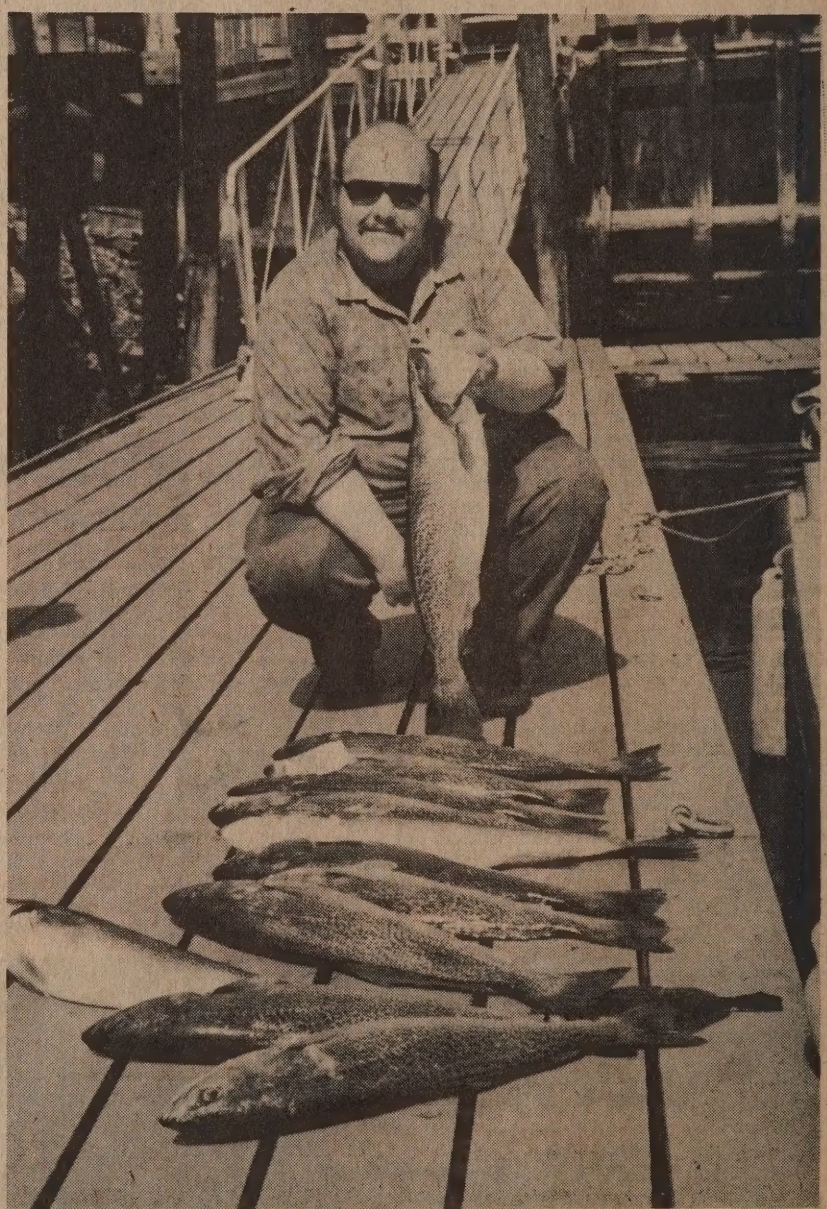
by Captain Zac Grossman

It was just light enough to see and we were slowly approaching a bass spot at Prospect Point. The anchor lines were being made ready as I lined the boat up on a shore mark. The water was flat calm and the rippling surface about fifty feet to starboard caught my eye. Suddenly the ripples spread in all directions almost halfway back to Execution Light. I swung the wheel to starboard and slowly worked toward the disturbance.

We were suddenly surrounded by millions of large, nervous sand eels. They started to fly out of the water, falling back in like so many drops of rain. Then there was a heavy splash and then another and another. Soon there were rising fish all around us. What were they? Then I saw one completely leave the water and crash back in among the panicking baitfish. It was a beautiful sight: a weakfish. Then another became airborne, its bright yellow fins outstanding in the growing light of morning. A flurry of activity aboard the boat and we were casting in all directions. Within seconds, we had four fish on.

The action lasted almost forty-five minutes and we were all alone with the fish. As suddenly as the tumult had begun, it ended. There we were standing with rods ready to cast, finger on the line, bail open and not a ripple on the surface. They were gone. I fired up the engines, set the anchor drill team in motion, and headed for the bass spot. Once anchored and fishing we had time to discuss the incredible scene we had been a part of. The fish readily pounded on the tins and Rebels we were using, but for some reason, as active as they were, they would only hit a lure that was moving very, very slowly. We noticed this when no strike occurred after a few casts even though the fish were breaking out all around us. In the heat of battle, we had unconsciously been reeling in faster and faster until the lures were completely ignored. Slowing them down put us into fish again. Would the fish be back again tomorrow? We couldn't wait to find out.

We left the dock at four in the morning, rigged and ready for weaks. I had my two favorite rods handy: a seven foot graphite spinner loaded with six pound test and my fly rod. We were expecting the best. The crack of dawn found us drifting around between Sands and Prospect Points, all eyes. The surface began to ripple and a few moments later the sand eels showered out. We began to cast and were into them again almost immediately. Again they were leaping completely out of the water. After landing one on the spinner, I switched to the fly rod and caught a pair on white Lefty's



The author with a catch of weakfish.

Deceivers.

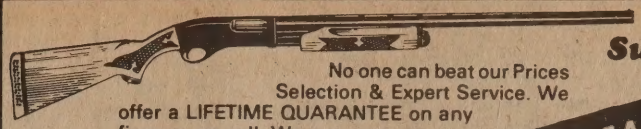
Suddenly we all noticed that they had stopped hitting. They were still coming out, so we figured we were retrieving too fast again and slowed down. **It didn't work.** We drifted and cast among the rising school for fifteen minutes without another hit; frustration mounted. I saw another school in the distance, well off Prospect Point and fired up the engines. "Grab a rail," I shouted as we sped up the Sound. We drifted in on this school and again couldn't get a strike. I decided to head further up Sound and see how widespread this phenomenon was. It turned out that there were schools of rising weakfish all the way to Lloyds Neck. There must have been fifty boats working this school; most of them were trolling.

We continued casting but to no avail and finally gave up to observe the other fishermen. They were catching plenty of fish. We saw umbrella rigs full of weakfish coming over the side of many of the boats. It was apparent that the weakfish run had been on around Lloyds for some time because all the boats there were rigged alike and were bailing fish. Wire lines and umbrella rigs have never had a place on my boat, so we just sat there and observed awhile. I was looking through the binoculars at a boat letting out his rig, when I noticed the all-important fact of the technique that was producing the fish. They were NOT USING WIRE.

That's right—NO WIRE. They were trolling the umbrellas just under the surface. This was a different story. We could still use relatively light tackle when the fish stop hitting cast lures. We left the spot and headed for home; it was now too late to go for bass. We discussed strategy throughout the morning. I picked up some "coat hanger" rigs—those mini umbrellas that have three tubes on them. The next outing found us once again off Sands Point and ready. The light rods were in our hands and the heavier spinners were in the rod racks ready to accept the coat hangers. If things went as planned, we would catch weaks on the tins and plugs, switching to trolled tubes if necessary and then anchoring for stripers after the weakfish went down.

Dawn broke and everything went as hoped and hardly another boat to share it with. Finding a school far from the crowd is helpful if you can do it, especially if it's not far from other fishing grounds for afterwards.

The very same action should take place this year. Large schools of sand eels are filling up all the bays and harbors in the western Sound already and it won't be long until the weakfish find out. If I were you, I'd get my tackle ready and plan some combination striper and weakfish trips. You don't want to miss it when the weakfish are coming out.



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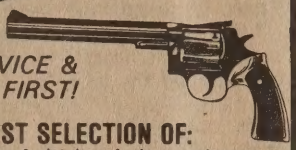

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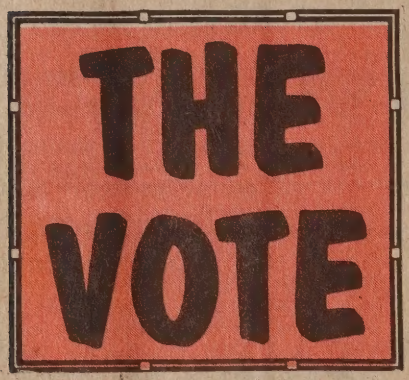
In the February 7 issue of *The Long Island Fisherman* we announced that we were going to run a series of articles on the saltwater licensing issue which would be followed by a vote after readers had an opportunity to air their views. The time for the vote is now upon us, and a pre-printed ballot has been inserted in the centerfold of this issue. The card can be easily removed by just lightly pulling it away from the fold. There is no postage necessary—just fill out the ballot and drop it in the mail. Ballots from individuals must be received by June 15, 1980, to be counted. But before marking your ballot, we ask that you please read the statement by the publisher beginning on page 3, and the information below:



★MARKING THE BALLOT★

INDIVIDUALS:

If you are an individual, fill in your name and address in the space provided and just write a large "X" over the appropriate box: an X over the YES box is a YES note; an X over the NO box is a NO vote. There is also a space provided on the ballot if you wish to make a brief comment. No postage stamp is necessary.

ORGANIZATIONS:

Fishing clubs or organizations may also take an official club position on the ballot. To do this, a vote must be taken at a regular or special club meeting, with only those present voting. The results of that vote must be filled in on the ballot and signed by an officer or member of the Board of Directors of the club or organization. We also request that you tell us the total number of dues paying members in the organization, whether they vote or not. The Individual Vote and Organization Vote will be tallied separately, so a fisherman participating in an organization vote may also vote as an individual. Ballots from organizations must be received by July 1, 1980 to be counted. If, for any reason, your club cannot hold a meeting before this deadline, an extension will be granted if requested in advance.

BUSINESSES:

Owners or managers of businesses in the sport fishing industry may also cast their vote on the appropriate section of the ballot. Circle what type of business your establishment is, and put an X through the YES or NO box as previously indicated. Fill in the name of your business and the appropriate information in the space provided. Ballots from businesses must be received by June 15, 1980, in order to be counted.

WHAT DOES A "YES" VOTE MEAN?

It is extremely important that those voting are aware that YOU ARE NOT VOTING FOR ANY SALTWATER LICENSE. A "Yes" vote *ONLY MEANS* that you are voting on the following Proposition as stated at the top of the ballot:

Should recreational sport fishermen actively support a saltwater fishing license such as the Model License outlined in the series "The Case For A Saltwater License" that appeared in The Long Island Fisherman?

If you have not read this series of articles, copies are available upon request. The MODEL LICENSE outlined in this series contains the following five provisions:

ONE. Anglers fishing from open boats, charter boats and rental skiffs would be covered by the vessel's *"Blanket License"* and would not be required to purchase an individual license.

TWO. All money derived from license fees MUST go into a special fund, known as the *Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund.*

THREE. Money from the *Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund* may ONLY be spent for saltwater projects such as boat launching ramps, artificial fishing reefs, public fishing piers, public docking facilities and public fishing access.

FOUR. Establishes the *Marine Fisheries Council*, which shall consist of seven non-salaried representatives of the sport fishing community.

FIVE. Any project that requires funds from the *Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund* MUST receive prior approval from the *Marine Fisheries Council* before they may be started.

A "Yes" vote means that you are ONLY voting to support a saltwater license that contains these five provisions! If a license DID NOT contain these five provisions intact, you would not support it...nor would *The Long Island Fisherman.*

WHAT DOES A "NO" VOTE MEAN?

A "No" vote means that you would not support a saltwater fishing license *NO MATTER WHAT PROVISIONS* are contained in it, including the five that are contained in the Model License.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE VOTE IS "YES"?

If the result of the balloting shows that a majority of our readership (by a "Yes" vote) are in favor of actively supporting the Model License as outlined, *The Long Island Fisherman* will seek to have it introduced as legislation in the New York State Legislature. If, at any point during the legislative process, the bill is changed in a manner that eliminates one of the five basic provisions, WE WILL HAVE THE BILL WITHDRAWN WITHIN 24 HOURS.* (See Editor's Note.) If the bill is amended in any manner that will mean that the license can no longer function as we have outlined in the series, WE WILL IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAW THE BILL and take no further action on it until we have consulted again with our readership on whether to accept the amended version.

**Editor's Note:* This is precisely what happened recently in Delaware. A license proposal similar to our Model License, which was supported by sport fishermen, was introduced into the State Senate. But while going through a legislative committee, the bill was amended so that instead of all of the money going into a special fund, only a percentage of it would be used in saltwater. The sponsors of the bill immediately had it withdrawn because the new form of the license was not acceptable to those who supported it.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE VOTE IS "NO"?

If the result of the voting shows that a majority of our readership is opposed to supporting a saltwater license such as the Model License, *The Long Island Fisherman* will not actively support any license, REGARDLESS OF ITS PROVISIONS. Any future licenses introduced into the New York Legislature will be opposed with a flat NO. We will not try to change, amend or add to any of its provisions. If such a license bill is ultimately passed, it will be in its original form and unchanged, unless done so during the legislative process.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *It is our opinion that eventually this course of action will result in a saltwater licensing bill being passed that DOES NOT contain the five provisions which we feel ANY license must contain to be acceptable to sport fishermen. Our recommendation to our readership has been, and is, that we must actively fight for a license in order to obtain these provisions, and therefore recommend a "YES" vote.*

Voting Ballot For

THE CASE FOR A SALTWATER FISHING LICENSE

This ballot is for readers of *The Long Island Fisherman* to vote *on the saltwater licensing issue. There are three voting categories:* INDIVIDUALS, FISHING CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS, *and* BUSINESSES. *Votes by Fishing Clubs or Organizations must be taken at a regular or special club meeting, and the ballot must be filled in and signed by an Officer of the club that was present during the vote. Fishermen may also vote as "Individuals" even if they have previously voted as a member of a club or organization. The Deadline for votes by clubs and organizations is July 1, 1980. Votes by Individuals and owners of fishing-related Businesses must be in by June 15, 1980.*
TO VOTE, JUST FILL IN BALLOT AND MAIL—NO STAMP REQUIRED.

PROPOSITION:

Should recreational sportfishermen actively support a saltwater fishing license such as the Model License outlined in the series "The Case For A Saltwater License" that appeared in The Long Island Fisherman?

INDIVIDUAL VOTE:

YES **NO**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

FISHING CLUB OR ORGANIZATION VOTE:

Enter in block the number of members that voted YES ☐

Enter in block the number of members that voted NO ☐

Enter in block the total number of members that voted: ☐

Name of Club _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Telephone Number of Officer _____

Signature and title of the Officer that officiated the vote: _____

Total number of dues paying members in organization: _____

BUSINESS VOTE:

☐ **YES**

☐ **NO**

TYPE OF BUSINESS (Circle One):

OPEN BOAT
CHARTER BOAT
FISHING STATION
TACKLE SHOP
MARINA
OTHER

Name of Business _____

Owner's Name _____

Address _____

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State _____ **Zip** _____

PLEASE NOTE: **The *Model License* that you are voting on contains the following five provisions:**

ONE. Anglers fishing from open boats, charter boats, and rental boats would be covered by the vessels "Blanket License" and would not be required to have an individual license, which would cost $6 a year.

TWO. Establishes the *Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund* into which all money collected from license fees MUST be deposited.

THREE. Money from the *Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund* may *ONLY* be spent for saltwater projects such as boat launching ramps, artificial fishing reefs, public fishing piers and docking facilities.

FOUR. Establishes the Marine Fisheries Council, which shall consist of seven non-salaried recreational sportfishing representatives.

FIVE: Any project that use monies from the *Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund* MUST receive prior approval from the *Marine Fisheries Council* before they may be started.

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SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

(Continued from page 6.)

lack of effort on the part of *The Long Island Fisherman.*

ON FRIDAY, we were told that *The Long Island Fisherman* should stop writing editorials because our campaigns have never accomplished anything. To which I reply:

Five years ago there were over a hundred foreign fishing vessels fishing for cod within eyesight of the shores of Long Island: *how many are there now?*

Last year there was a fish trap on North Bar: *how many are there now?*

A score of bunker boats used to ply the waters of the western end of Long Island Sound, vacuuming up the prey that bluefish and striped bass feed upon: *how many are there now?*

Last year there was a bill to raise the minimum size limit on striped bass from sixteen to twenty-six inches, but it didn't pass: *Why?*

This year there was a legislative proposal to establish a minimum size limit of eight inches for flounder that never even made it into bill form: *Why?*

The Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Council didn't want to make a management plan for bluefish, but it is anyway: *Why?*

This year sport fishermen will not be required to apply for a permit and tag the giant tuna they catch: *Why?*

And what about next year? When there no longer is any dragging in our south shore bays, will this be as a result of magic, or a result of the public hearing held in Babylon *at the request of The Long Island Fisherman* to show the public support for the dragging bill? When a new, full-facility public launching ramp is opened by the State on the North Shore of Long Island, and perhaps a second with access to Fire Island Inlet, will they magically appear—or will they be the fruits of the five trips the editor of *The Fisherman* made to Albany last year to lobby for more ramps on Long Island? When the Japanese voluntarily (under pressure) reduce their catch of giant bluefin tuna by a full third next year, will it have anything to do with the two trips to Washington made by *The Long Island Fisherman's* editor and his testimony before Congress to protect the bluefin tuna? If additional beaches in our State Parks are opened for surf fishermen, will the reasons be mystifying, or will they have something to do with the *Sport Fishing Advisory Council* that was set up by the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, Orin Lehman, and John Sheridan of the Long Island State Park Commission in response to a request for such a council from *The Long Island Fisherman?* Would there still be surf fishing at night from Democrat Point if not for the work of this same council?

To those who would say that *The Fisherman* wants to see another tax placed on sport fishermen by advocating a license, I respond by asking them why we fought, *and won* (through our participation on the Boating Advisory Council), the battle against Governor Carey's proposed tripling of motorboat registration fees?

To those who would say that the State will not be able to fund many artificial fishing reefs and launching ramps with the estimated five or six million dollars that would be raised from license fees, we suggest that they look at what the State of Virginia has done in five years with an annual budget of a paltry $50,000: three artificial fishing reefs—one made from four Liberty Ships as its base, a second with two Liberty Ships, and a third constructed with one hundred fifty THOUSAND automobile tires.

To those who would say *The Fisherman*, by stimulating discussion on the licensing issue may actually be doing more harm than good, we say that nobody ever accomplished in this world by burying their head in the sand in an attempt to hide from reality.

To those who would say that six dollars is an exorbitant fee to invest in the future of our sport, I point out that the same six dollars will only buy about two dozen worms; will barely buy two gallons of gas; and is not enough to buy a decent plug.

To those who would say *The Fisherman* is trying to shove a saltwater license down the throats of sport fishermen, we say that if this were our motive we wouldn't have committed ourselves to putting the issue to a vote by our readers. We have presented the saltwater licensing issue in a depth never before accomplished, examining all the pros and cons. Nothing has been left out, and nothing has been added. We have given our opinions, and made our recommendations. Now it is up to our readership to determine our future actions through their vote on this issue. A vote by which we shall abide. If there is a more democratic way of handling an emotional topic, mankind has yet to discover it.

To those who would try to place a price tag on the principles under which *The Long Island Fisherman* has been published for the last fifteen years—principles that I as an individual, along with my editorial staff, deeply believe in—I say: *there is no price tag*, our principles are not for sale. But if they were, it would certainly be much higher than the 4.9% of *The Long Island Fisherman's* gross that you appear, erroneously, to believe it to be.

To those who have said that the editor of *The Long Island Fisherman*, Scott Simons, has taken his position on the licensing issue because he is on some politican's or government agency's payroll, I hesitate to pass judgment—there is a higher Judge for those who would make accusations such as these. And when that judgment comes, say hello to Joe McCarthy.

And, finally, to those who say we have been deceiving and leading our readers down a primrose path, I say that we will stand on our fifteen year record of accomplishment and integrity, and let our readers be the judge with their vote.

I just thought somebody ought to set the record straight.

Richard Reina

The Case For A Saltwater Fishing License

FINAL READER'S COMMENTS

While each person is entitled to his or her opinion, I question the propriety of an editor turning propagandist to push his own point of view. Your somewhat "hard sell" saltwater fishing license epic was just that: an exercise in propaganda. However, the fact that you found it necessary to write all those variations on your own theme has made it appear as though you've been trying to convince yourself as much as anyone else.

But Scott, you assuredly haven't convinced the professional boat operators. If ever there were a time to back away from offering so much as a glimmer of acuiescence to saltwater licensing, it is now. Despite the yards of verbiage you offered in defense of what you may honestly believe is the "ultimate" in saltwater license, it is unrealistic to think that any law can emerge from committee (much less the whole legislature) the way it was submitted.

It is difficult to decide whether you have scaled the heights of naivete or presumptuousness to believe that you will be able to dictate all the provisions of a new law. It simply does not happen that way—neither on the state nor Federal level. Remember, what the New York State Legislature needs right now is another source of revenue, especially in the wake of the subway strike and settlement. What better way to glean some of that money than to tax the "downstate" area? A saltwater fishing license could very well fill that bill, with any hoped-for benefit to fishermen proving to be just so much piscatorial pie-in-the-sky. You might say that you won't support a bill that isn't written your way, but once you've opened the Pandora's box, you can't stuff all the ills back into it.

It is also a case of wishful thinking for you to count on the inevitability of the so-called "domino effect." That is, if New York falls, then New Jersey and Connecticut will succumb in turn to saltwater licensing. We all know how New Jersey feels about it...*NEGATIVELY*; and as for Connecticut, what with the current tax structure, there is no way a saltwater license proposal would make the grade.

Let's look at what it costs the owner of a small boat in Connecticut right now. Say the average rig used for saltwater fishing runs about $5,000. Not only does the purchaser pay the initial sales tax, as he would in New York, but he also pays A YEARLY PROPERTY TAX on the vessel. How much can that be? Simply multiply the value of the boat by the mill rate of a particular town. If the rate is 40 mills, the tax will be $200; if the mill rate is higher, and some towns are in the 50 to 60+ range, the tax will go up accordingly. Furthermore, tax assessors have been *APPRECIATING INSTEAD OF DEPRECIATING* the value of boats in the last couple of years. In addition, there is an annual registration fee; for boats under 16' it is $3.00; for those between 16' and 40', it is $10.00. And that doesn't include the taxes and licensing fees for boat trailers!

Realistically, how you can expect Connecticut's saltwater fishermen to stand still for an additional fee for each person aboard their boats? Furthermore, you have glibly proposed a non-resident fee of $25 per person, which would come into play if Connecticut didn't go along with your pet project. What are you trying to do—foment a drive for re-acquisition of territory that in all common sense should belong to Connecticut? Fishers Island, for example, is but a stone's throw from the Connecticut shore, but by some aberration in history it became New York's territory. The N.Y.D.E.C., which would inevitably have the police power, would be hauling in boats by the hundreds if they were to enforce such a regulation. For if you take into consideration how little small boat owners in general know about navigation, how many of them would really be aware that they were fishing in New York waters, when to all intents and purposes they are fishing in their own backyard?

Why should the National Party Boat Owners Alliance be taking up the cause of the private boater when under your proposal the party and charter boats would only have to pay a yearly fee to cover all persons who fish aboard our vessels? After all, wouldn't it be to our advantage to see the cost of operation of private craft continue to rise and become so prohibitive that it would take more of the "mosquito fleet" off the water and thus put more anglers aboard the professionally run vessels?

At first glance it would seem so, but in the light of our considerable experience in dealing with and being forced to live with government bureaucracies, one more set of regulations foisted on us by another set of self-serving bureaucrats could well be the last straw. As to the fees you propose, what makes you think that they would remain at that level? As the rate of inflation rises, so will the fees. After the costs visited upon our industry by government this year alone, we don't need any additional ones.

By the way, during the course of your promotional efforts, you spoke about the fact that you had addressed the gathering at the Ft. Lauderdale Symposium. May I remind you that you had told me that you took the "pro" side of the debate at that time only because you were asked to do so by the sponsors. Also, you only made reference to those speakers who also advocated licensing. You should have included the fact that NPBOA's area representative, Captain Dan Gurnsey, of Pompano Beach, presented the views of the charter and party boat industry at that same symposium, *OPPOSING* a saltwater license. *Capt. George F. Glas, Director, National Party Boat Owners Alliance.*

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I have read with great interest your "Case for a Saltwater License" and I must say that you have presented a well thought out, well written and powerful case. In fact, you almost won me over. The basic difference in our positions is that you believe government to be honest, responsive to the needs of the people and basically willing to do what is right—and I do not! You believe your bill would pass through both Houses and the Governor would sign it into law unchanged and I don't! You believe the upstate politicans who have historically taken monies that should have gone for coastal improvements to use in their own communities will support this bill and I don't! You believe that our Representative on Long Island will

have enough pull to get support from our enemies upstate and I don't! You believe that compromises will not take place and I don't. In my opinion, you will encourage fishermen to back a license and in the end we will get screwed without even being kissed first.

Neither the State of New York nor the Federal Government has demonstrated one scentilla of evidence that they care for or are responsive to our needs, so why capitulate? I know that in the end I will lose, but at least I will go down like a man with honor and no illusions that such a bill could actually go through our governmental machinery and come out as you propose to put it in.

I must add that if you could give us a license as you described, I would be a fool to fight it. But alas, I do not believe you can deliver. Therefore, I must vote *NO!!!*

I offer the following amendments to your proposed license even though I cannot support it for the reasons mentioned above. I offer the changes below because I think it makes your model better and maybe I could be pleasantly surprised by our political machine.

A. Blanket Licenses—A third category should be added for private boats, without a licensed captain, taking guests. This could take the form of a boat license for $6 and the owner's license another $6. I feel this way that we owners of modest boats who take guests and family for company can do so with a minimum of hardship. Further, I would justify the fee being so low because we cannot charge, or accept gas money, gifts or food in exchange for taking guests.

B. Article IV, Item 5—I believe you get what you pay for. Therefore, I recommend that the members receive some compensation for what will undoubtedly be some very long and hard meetings. It is unrealistic to expect people to work for nothing and still do a good job. Plus, an unpaid position puts great temptation on the employee to compensate himself in some other way. That way can be detrimental to our interests.

Just so that you know where I am coming from, I own a 29' Sportfisherman. I fish an average of twice a week, cruise with my family and take many friends. I use my boat from March through December and I live on the water in Freeport. *Sheldon Minkon, Freeport, New York.*

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After reading your series of articles on the Saltwater Fishing License and attending the Sportfishing Council's hearing on the license issue, I feel that now is the time for me to make my position known on this controversial subject.

The needs of the marine angler are many. He is an unrecognized entity like a fish in a polluted political sea. We, as fishermen, desire better beach access, cleaner waters, local boat ramps, and sound fishery management programs to name just a few "needs." The question then is, how do we accomplish these goals we have set for ourselves? The future does not look good for the recreational fisherman. The handwriting is on the wall and that is either we begin to act now or we get what we deserve. The question then is, how do we act?

As I see it, there are four possible courses of action to follow. Each course, if individually successful, could benefit the fishermen. They are suggested in the order in which they should be attempted.

I. Lobbyist: A paid full-time lobbyist in Albany could help the fishermen in many ways. His salary could be paid by donations, etc., as is the salary of Mr. Miller, the commercial fishermen's lobbyist. Our lobbyist could ask questions like, what happened to our marine gas tax money? Why does the DEC have a policy of building boat ramps upstate only because they are cheaper to build. What have our local politicians done for us lately and who is working for us that we should vote for? With strong, effective publicity behind him, such as your paper, the lobbyist could open many doors and get the fishermen the political power base and recognition that they deserve.

II. County Sales Tax: I dislike even the word "tax" but the revenues collected from 2½ million anglers could be significant. If each county had a 1% sales tax on all fishing tackle, similar to Dingell/Johnson, we would have hundreds of thousands of dollars for each county. Do your own math and see for yourself. Of course, this tax money would have to be earmarked for marine use only. An unsalaried, appointed panel of fishermen could then disburse these monies within their own county.

III. Free License: The concept of the fishermen having to pay for their own license, as the only way to get money, is erroneous. Fishermen already pay millions in Dingell/Johnson taxes on fishing tackle. This money is given to states who have licenses. Why can't we have a free license just to get at these funds that we have already paid for! How much money we will get is a question I cannot answer. What I do know is that a registration of over two million saltwater fishermen in this state would draw political support and the recognition we deserve.

IV. L.I.F. Saltwater License: After all avenues have been explored, then and only then should we have a license whereby the fishermen have to foot the bill for their own good. The model license you propose has a few flaws as I see it. One flaw is the orientation and emphasis on construction projects and its de-emphasis on fishery management. Would it be practical to build a boat ramp or pier only to have the waters surrounding it become cesspools like Jamaica Bay? We have to have clean waters and fish before we start building.

Another questionable item is the requirement that appointed members of the license council be members of an organized group. This makes no sense since for a modest fee any idiot can join the IGFA. Let's appoint people based on their experience and record and keep the vested interests of the organized groups out. We have enough politics already.

These are the steps, I feel, we should take to solve our problems and help the fishermen in this state. One problem though that has to be solved is that of angler apathy. Fishing is recreation, a Constitutional right under the "pursuit of happiness" clause. Anglers have enough to fight about just to "hang in there" in today's rat-race society. Fishing is that "escape" that we all enjoy. You and your publication are the most powerful voice for the fishermen today. Whatever course of action we take to achieve our goals, your voice must be heard. *Bob Hunt*

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As a lifetime resident of Long Island, a reader and subscriber of the L.I.F., and a sport and recreational fisherman for more than a half a century. I protest loud and vehemently that any legislation to license saltwater fishermen will be a complete and total disaster!!!

If I have learned anything in my sixty-four years of existence, it is that politics pervades every iota of our lives, from birth to date! I've also learned the very painful lesson that politicians are, and have been with very few exceptions, unmitigated opportunists and will promise anything and everything and deliver nothing.

To assume that politics and politicians will not be involved in the collection and disbursement of saltwater license fees has to be the most inane and stupid bit of reasoning ever!!!

Past performances of local, state and Federal regulatory agencies is replete with failures to carry out the fundamental reasons that inspired their beginnings.

Let's look at N.Y. State. The saltwater regions are not located in Buffalo, Rochester, Albany, etc. The saltwater areas are located only in downstate regions—the five boroughs of N.Y.C. (Counties) and Nassau and Suffolk counties...and the natural conclusion is that N.Y.C. and Long Island fishermen will be bearing the brunt of the cost. As an instance, I fish, my wife fishes, my two sons fish, my daughter fishes, so here we have a family, a multiple of 5x$6.50 for just one family! For the life of me, I cannot see how upstate politicians would allow this

(Continued on page 51.)

SNAKES & STRIPES

by Andy Regina

Putting the lie to misconcepted general thinking, fishing for striped bass is not a thing of the past, especially here in the western end of Long Island Sound. Here in the pocket that encompasses The Bronx, Westchester, and western Long Island, stripers are very much alive and kicking, and are still susceptible to properly presented baits.

The very nature of our shore lines spells bass with a capital B: gravel-strewn bottom, rocky beaches, and boulder-splashed shallow inshore waters all attract striped bass. And although we may not be able to boast of being attractive enough to induce stripers to spawn therein, our waters not only provide a nursery for baby bass to grow up in, but a bounteous dining room in which big bass can dine at their leisure.

Bait-rich shallow water offers ample rocky protection for baby bass, as well as many advantageous ambush points for their elders to lie in, awaiting any hapless bait that might be swept by. The rich bottom holds many clams and seaworms that the bass feed on, not to mention generous weed growth. This harbors tiny marine life and attracts baitfish which, in turn, attract the stripers. These small grass shrimp, killies, and spearing, constitute a major part of bass diets. Clams and seaworms are another major part of striper sustenance. Larger bait, such as herring, moss bunker, and mackerel, attract the attention of big bass, not to mention the eels that prowl the weeds or the baby blackfish that haunt the rocks—two more prime bass baits that astute bass men put to good use.

The resurgence of prolific schools of sand eels in recent years has given rise to the claim that worming for bass has become a lost art. That, and the weak excuse that modern outboard motors are just too heavily horsepowered to throttle-down to those slow speeds so necessarily required to present trolled worms in a proper manner. More than likely it is the escalating cost of worms that has turned people away from using them. Whereas a flat of sand worms (approximately one gross of worms in the original shipping box) cost less than $10 a couple of years ago, today that same flat goes for about $20. This outlay is usually enough for one good incoming tide; so you can realize the reluctance to purchase same.

Employing a small auxiliary trolling motor will enable you to troll at those crucial slow speeds (about 300 rpm), and getting out on the flats at low tide and digging your own worms will keep bait costs within your means. Of course, digging can be hard work, but die-hard bassmen count it as par for the course, and even look forward to uncovering tapeworms in their endeavors, which are a bass bait par excellence, when still-fished at night.

Worm trolling usually only produces small bass—those that have not yet reached their teens in weight—although there is always some hungry cow that might take a liking to a juicy worm, and raise hell with your poor nerves as she depletes your spool of mono. We lean towards conventional tackle for this type of fishing, believing it not only gives us better line control and a more sensitive feel, but a better chance of overpowering any biggie that might just come our way. This conventional tackle does not have to be heavy stuff either; a medium weight boat rod and a good reel holding two hundred yards of premium mono of fifteen pound test will do very nicely. Make certain the reel has a good drag system and a well functioning star, as too often the star does not make critical drag adjustments properly. Use premium mono, such as Ande pink, which in our humble estimation is a very good line.

You gotta troll those worms about fifty feet behind the boat, as close to shore as you can safely get. If you don't bounce off a rock once in awhile, you're just not close enough! More important than your boat's proximity to those boulders is the fact that you must get that worm as close to those rocks as possible, to be most effective. Striped bass really hold tight to the down-tide side of those rocks, and will not venture too far away from the. Conventional tackle will allow you to tie a hook directly to the end of your line, which is the simplest, most sensitive connection there is, and to lay that bait right alongside the rocks.

For trolling purposes, avoid beak and claw style hooks, as well as any other hooks that may be kirbed, or bent to one side. To keep the worm swimming in a natural manner without spinning, you need a hook with a straight bend. A Sproat or O'Shaughnessy hook in about size 5/0 will suit your purpose nicely. Although you can get by nicely with a 3/0 hook, the possibility of hooking into a large fish prompts our choice of the larger hook. Besides which, bass have big bucket-mouths, and will have no trouble engulfing the larger bend.

Knots are crucial to successful bass fishing. The improved clinch knot will not pull out under stress if properly tied, and maintains about ninety percent of line test strength. This means that the knot will not break easily, because it has not weakened the line too much in the tying.

Affix the fattest, juiciest, squirmiest worm on the hook by inserting the hook point into its mouth, and then just thread that worm up onto the hook like spaghetti—sort of like stringing beads. Before you get the worm completely to the eye of the hook, stop and bring the hook point through the body of the worm, then continue with your bead stringing, until the bend and the barb of the hook are exposed. This not only will give you the surer penetration when bass strike, but will present the worm in a natural manner, allowing it to swim along under tow as if it were still free.

If you can get by without having to use any weight other than that of the hook and the worm, so much the better. Now you will not have your baits ruined by pesky bergalls, which seem to infest the Sound more and more each year, and which abound among the very rocks we troll over. If tidal strength or current movement is too strong to permit unweighted trolling, place a quarter ounce split shot about three feet ahead of the hook. If this is still not heavy enough to do the job properly, do NOT go to heavier sinkers, as this will normally only result in feeding the bergalls.

Go instead, to a turkey bone lure—those white plastic tubes with a double hook arrangement; or better yet, first try a Cape Cod spinner. Use the single leaf spinner first, then if that does not bring you down to striper territory, try the double leaf spinner, which is

slightly heavier, and will, therefore, get you down a little deeper. If both spinners fail to do the job, resort to the turkey bone lure.

Our fishing log consistently shows that bass are seen as early as April; however, these fish have never responded to our worm trolling efforts. All recorded early bass have either been taken by bottom fishing or drifting worms. I guess there's something about the water temperature being too cold then to trigger striper metabolism. I don't know—I'm not a scientist or a genuis—just a fisherman. If those bass won't take a trolled worm, give them one drifted, or on the bottom, as long as that's what they want, right?

Here, though, is where techniques vary slightly. For bottom fishing, you can get by with spinning tackle, if you like. We still prefer conventional tackle because of the more acute sense of feel it affords us—but if you like spinning tackle, use it.

Tie a long-leadered hook about three inches above a sinker just heavy enough to hold bottom, and bait it in the same way you do for trolling. You can even tie that hook about three feet above the sinker, which will cause the worm-baited hook to sway in the current, directly over the bottom where early spring bass are grubbing in the mud for worms. Now is the time to use those beak hooks, the ones with the sliced shanks, which will keep the worm up on the hook as you fish, or during casting.

The same basic trolling rig works fine for drifting worms, too, which is another good way to score with early bass. Just lower it into the water, and spool out line as the current or tide takes it out. If the current is too strong, add that quarter ounce split shot three feet above the hook, then add another if one is not heavy enough to keep your bait from three to six feet below the surface of the water. Here'you have to keep the bait moving out with the current though; so keep your reel in free spool, and keep your thumb on the spool as you continually feed out line. Should you get no strikes after spooling out about one hundred feet of line, engage the reel and retrieve line slowly until it is all recovered, then repeat the whole process all over again.

Early bass hotspots here have been: Little Neck Bay, Fort Totten, the base of the Throgg's Neck Bridge, the Country Club shore line, Pelham Bay, Turtle Cove, and City Island. These places are generally fished from shore, but can be fished from boats—either drifting bait or bottom fishing.

From about the beginning of June, through most of July, worm trolling gets the job done. Some of the local places that yield stripers are: Hart and High Islands, Fort Totten, Fort Slocum, Pelham Bay, the Country Club shore line, and along much of the Westchester shore line—such as Rye, Mamaroneck, Larchmont, and New Rochelle. Not to be overlooked are the points of land that dot most of the Long Island shore of the Sound, including Hewlett's Point, Barker's Point, Sand's Point, and Prospect Point.

Just remember to get out there early, to take advantage of a full tide, and fish close. Bring along a net for when you get lucky—it doesn't pay to gaff bass if you must release some of them. We have a legal size limit in New York State: sixteen inches from tip of snout to fork of tail; so carefully measure any bass you may keep.

More demanding than any size limit imposed by law is that imposed by conscience. These fish are struggling to recover from several poor class years, in which they have not spawned as well as they might have, so stock of legal sizes may be low. If we release not only undersized fish, but also any legal sizes that may not actually be needed for our tables, we will add to the future of this species by providing more adult fish to spawn. After all, isn't the thrill in the catching, and not in the killing? I think it is!

Surf Fishing:
FLUKE FROM THE BEACH

(Continued from page 18.)

slow-moving artificials. Whiptails, Eelworms, and bucktails bounced or swum lazily along the bottom will often attract any fluke lurking in the area. These lures cast up-tide with light tackle and allowed to swing in a wide arc can provide considerable sport for an angler working areas such as the backside of Democrat on a pleasant summer day. If the tackle is kept light, giving these fish a chance to demonstrate their fighting ability, many hard-core surfmen will be surprised for a fluke will give a good account of itself if only given a chance.

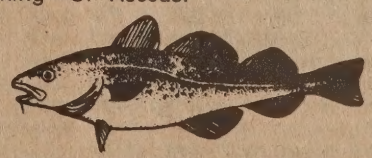
Some knowledgeable anglers dress up their bucktails with strips of bait to further entice a strike. Wedge-shaped strips of mackerel belly or similar bait sliced at the narrow end to produce more flutter as the lure is worked through the water, can be dynamite. A supply of these strips specifically for this purpose can be kept aside when packaging the spring mackerel catch for the freezer in preparation for late season baitfishing for blues and bass. Six to ten strips sealed in a plastic baggy is ample for most fluke trips.

Several years ago, during that fabulous run of fluke at Shagwong, many fish were taken on small tins. A slow retrieve coupled with a slight twitching of the rod tip was the more-production method used. Although tins and sinking swimming plugs such as the four inch Rebel or three inch Rapalas do catch a fair share of fluke, the favored artificials are the leadheaded jig type lures.

White is the choice of most anglers when using bucktails, although yellow-tinted lures often work better in murky waters. The newer Hammer Tails manufactured by Hopkins which incorporate pockmarked style chrome plating in the head rather than a painted head which is found on most bucktails.

Whichever style bucktail or jig one chooses, the lure should be of sufficient weight to keep it at or near the bottom for this is the domain of the fluke, unlike the more active predators which are frequently found chasing bait on the surface. On the other hand, giant-sized lures do not produce good results; therefore, alternate methods of getting the lure close to the bottom should be tried. The use of six or eight pound test line, instead of say, fifteen or twenty, will allow the lure to sink at a faster rate. The heavier line is not required when fluke fishing; if the drag is set correctly more sport without broken lines can be had with light tackle.

In contrast to striper fishermen who require special equipment and a keen knowledge of their sport, anglers seeking fluke can be equipped with only the basics. A rod and reel suitable for casting moderate distances and a supply of hooks, sinkers, and bait, or if one prefers, bucktails, is all that is necessary. Beginning surfmen with a desire to return home with a supply of tasty fish will do better seeking these summer flounders. Lessons learned and practice gained in this pursuit will better prepare the novice who later prowls the nighttime surf stalking the king—Ol' Roccus.



National Scene:
JAPANESE ENJOY TUNA

(Continued from page 14.)

continues unabated, and it will probably succeed if there isn't a big change within NMFS—or unless Congress intervenes. In view of the reports I've received about the way Leitzell was hauled over the coals at the recent House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee tuna hearings, perhaps there's some hope that Congress will take action to straighten out NMFS.

Timing Tiderunners

by Gerald Hahn

Last season's tiderunners ventured into the Peconic Bay system around May 1 and remained for three weeks. This was an improvement over the previous season which lasted about two weeks. If you were there during this period, you may have scored on large weakfish from six to twelve pounds. Then again, you may not, and there are several reasons for this:

1. Erratic weather can wipe out a day's fishing for this species, and last May was marked by one rainstorm after another. Tiderunners do not like roily water.

2. You may have selected a day with the "wrong tides." Best days are when a tidal change occurs early in the morning which gives you a second tidal change later in the day. Tides are very important to consider, particularly for boat renters who must return by 4PM or 5Pm at the latest. As the name implies, "tide-runners" are most active during a tidal change.

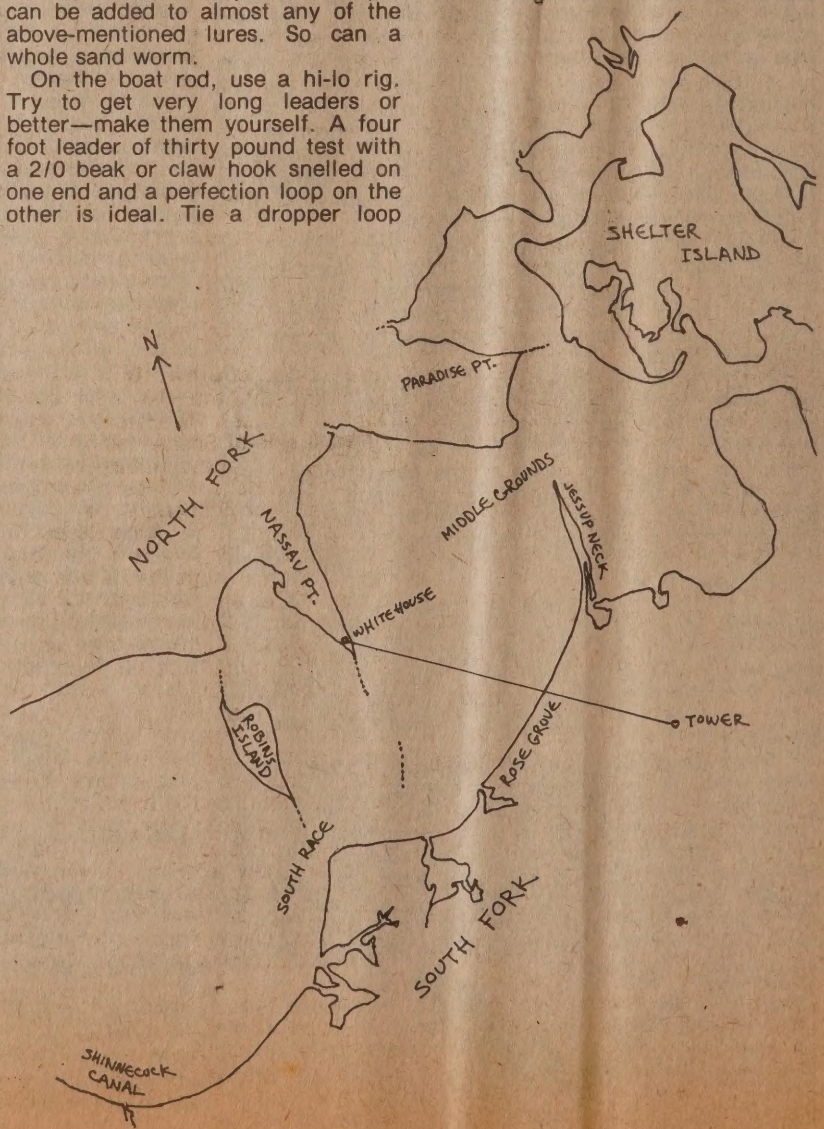
3. Another problem is locating the fish in a bay that extends for over eight miles. Spiteful squeteague are not particularly obliging and the more time you spend driving around, the less time you have to fish.

4. There are several ways to catch weakfish and if you only know one, it may not work.

Now, with such a discouraging introduction you might want to continue flounder or mackerel fishing for relatively sure catches, but the spring run of weakfish is a unique event for the small boat, bay fisherman. After all, when was the last time you caught a ten pound fish from a rental skiff? And even if you catch only a few of these outsized fish, the thrill will not soon be forgotten.

It is best to go with one other person and certainly no more than three people in a sixteen foot skiff. This will give you ample room to fish with two rods, an 8' spinner with a medium/light reel, filled with ten to fifteen pound test and a 6' boat rod with a light conventional reed and fifteen pound test. Use the spinning rod for artificials: soft plastic, leadhead shrimp, jelly-worms, grubs, split-tails, whiptails, as well as bucktails, tin squids, and small swimming plugs. All lures should be well under an ounce. Colors vary, but the old standbys—fluorescent reds, yellow, and white—are used most often. Some days, however, tiderunners prefer darker hues, deep blues and purples, dark reds, and grape. Tie the lure directly to your main line with an improved clinch knot, or to facilitate changes, use a small snap swivel tied with the same knot. A strip of squid cut into a three to four inch pennant shape, can be added to almost any of the above-mentioned lures. So can a whole sand worm.

On the boat rod, use a hi-lo rig. Try to get very long leaders or better—make them yourself. A four foot leader of thirty pound test with a 2/0 beak or claw hook snelled on one end and a perfection loop on the other is ideal. Tie a dropper loop about 4½' above the end of the main line and an end loop for the sinker, banks in the two to five ounce range. Another dropper a few inches above the sinker will take care of the bottom hook; a shorter eighteen inch to two foot leader with the same size hook. If long snelled leaders on the main line cause tangling problems, use a three-way swivel and thirty pound test leader for the rig. Tie the swivel to the



main line and leader with improved clinch knots. The top hook, the one that usually fouls, can be slipped through the remaining eye of the swivel and the stiff leader should prevent tangling. Another possibility is to duplicate codfishing rigs; i.e., to use a short piece of plastic tubing to cover the dropper/snell connection.

Years ago the best bait to use for weakfish was grass shrimp; but nowadays, most of the regulars use whole sand worms or squid. It is best to have both on hand. In other places, such as Long Island Sound or Fire Island Inlet, anglers often resort to live-lined snappers or sand eels from summer to fall. But I rarely see these baits used in the Peconics. Thread the sand worm carefully on the top hook and let most of it trail below the point. Cut the squid into a pennant shape about three-quarter inches wide and four inches long to the tapered point. Impale it on the bottom hook once, near the wide end. It is best to keep the fragile worm on top because scavengers are often in the bay by this time: sea robins, assorted crabs, and bergalls. Squid on the bottom holds up better against them, while tiderunners hit the top hook—their favorite.

The best way to fish for tiderunners is to drift. Prime periods, as mentioned, are about an hour before to an hour after a tidal change. The idea is similar to drifting for fluke; i.e., to try a likely area and once you get a fish on, to shorten subsequent drifts over the same spot. Some anglers like to cast their artificials as they drift. Casts should be made ahead of the drifting direction, not behind it. Others simply ease theirs into the water and jig the lures while drifting. In either case, it is advisable to give the lure some action, especially the soft plastic ones. But remember, weaks are not blues, so use a moderate touch and retrieve. Dropping back the lure, reeling it in a few turns, and twitching the rod, all increase the fluttering, streaming, and hopping action of various artificials.

Meanwhile, you may be wondering what to do with the other rod. Wedge it between an oar and the side of the boat or wherever it will be secure and let nature take its course; the current and drift will provide plenty of action with natural baits. In the Peconics on a calm day, drifts will run easterly on the outgoing tide and westerly on the incoming. But on windy days, generally out of the north, drifts will also run in a southerly direction.

Another method worth exploring is to anchor in deep water on the down-current side of a sand bar. From here, you can cast artificials or bait into the dropoff. There are at least four well-known bars in Peconic Bay: the south side of Robins Island, Nassau Point, Rose's Grove, and Paradise Point. On the outgoing tide, anchor up on the east side of these sand bars, and on the incoming tide, move over to the west side (except for Paradise Point, that is, you can move somewhat to the west, but not too much because you will wind up on shore). Of the four sand bars, the only one that may be difficult to locate is the offshore bar at Rose's Grove. It is clearly visible during the ebb tide, however, west of the prominent radio tower on the southern mainland and in line with a sand cliff on the south shore, when viewed from the east.

No matter whether you drift or anchor for tiderunners, when you get a hit, let the fish run on a light drag. If you try to overpower it, you will only succeed in wearing a hole in the fish's fragile mouth and lose it. Although this fish is known as a tiderunner, it is still a weakfish—that is, it has a thin mouth. Be prepared, however, for sudden erratic turns, particularly near the end of the fight. A large landing net will take care of the rest as your partner leads the fish head-first into its mesh.

There are five major areas to try for weakfish in Peconic Bay. The first is the South Race, between the south of Robins Island and the southern mainland. Buoys 25 to 30 mark this area of tidal rips and channels. The second is the Middle Grounds, just west of Jessups Neck, between buoys 17 and 18. The water here is very deep, but many anglers also work the shallower cove formed by Jessup and the South Shore. In-between the Race and the Middle Grounds is Rose's Grove on the south side and Nassau Point on the north. The Radio Tower, already mentioned, marks the former, and the "white house" marks the latter. Buoy 22 is also worth a try on the north side, southwest of Nassau Point. Finally, the last area is the channel between Paradise Point and the west side of Shelter Island.

Given the erratic nature of tiderunner arrivals and departures, and their behavior in general, it is best to plan several trips during the run, which is usually noted in the local reports of this magazine. If you plan to rent a boat on a weekend, make a reservation. Weekdays will be better, of course, due to less traffic. Check the rental ads in Hampton Bays, Noyac, Southold, and New Suffolk. If you own a boat, take advantage of night or twilight fishing. During the last few seasons, some of the best catches have taken place at night, and it is becoming a pattern in other places as well. In Captree, for example, many party boats are now running evening-to-night trips for weakfish and in Peconic Bay, at least one boat has made a specialty out of this kind of fishing: the Brand X out of Greenport.

Despite the erratic patterns mentioned, fishing for tiderunners is a thrilling treat for the bay fisherman. There is plenty of time to go for other species. This one should not be missed.

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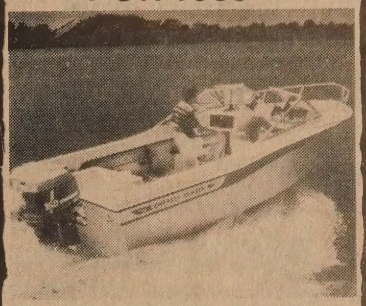

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Five year old Karen Stuven with a nice flatfish taken in Huntington Harbor. Subscriber Club Photo.

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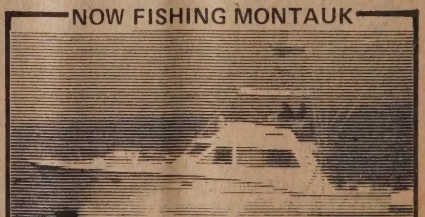

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MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
COD

Capt. Ron Grandinetti of the charter boat **Julie III** took 11 cod up to 14 lbs. at Block Island and 49 flounder up to 3 lbs. 1 oz. at Culloden Point for a party lead by Manny Lieberman. On Sunday, Vinnie, Joe and Bob of Staten Island totaled 62 flounder up to 3½ lbs. at Rocky Point on clam bait.

Gone Fishing Marina called to say that on Friday Greg and Bob Giordano, Vince Greco and Joe Petchonka of the Bronx caught 32 flounders fishing at Rocky Pt. Fish ran up to 3 lbs. On Saturday the Lady Claire had 17 flounder at Rocky Pt. in the 2 lb. range. Dianie Foster had 22 flounder on the boat Kitty. Very good pollack action on Saturday, as evidenced by Matthew Palazzo of Yonkers, who brought in a 28 lb. pollack. Jon Sammis, Pat Pevers and Sean Heslin of Huntington caught 7 pollack up to 30 lbs. fishing south of Block using banana twists fishing aboard the boat Barbara M.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that Ronnie Goldberg of the "Bar-Bar-Jac" has done it again! On Friday, he fished one of his secret wrecks and diamond jigged over 1500 lbs. of cod and pollack. The catch consisted of 65 big pollack and 25 cod. Howard Rubin took the largest cod, a 47 lber., but there were five others over 40 lbs. Lou Rosado on the "Daiwa" took 70 big flounder on Friday fishing off Gardiner's. Many of the fish were legitimate snowshoes, and the largest weighed in at 3¾ lbs. Henry said that the "Lorrie-Jay" trolled 35 pollack on wire lines Saturday south of Block Island.

Capt. Gary Kieffer of the charter boat **Barracuda** called to tell us of his good fishing over the weekend at SW Ledge to the tune of 40 to 50 mixed cod and pollack blackfish and sea bass all taken on bait. The cod are in the 5 to 10 lb. range.

Capt. Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** reports that pollack fishing has been spotty. Some days have been good and others slow. Saturday's charter had 30 mixed pollack and cod. The boat is available this Friday, Saturday and Monday and last minute holiday weekend planners should take notice.

Capt. Joe McBride of the charter boat **My Mate** reports cod fish action has been strong off Block Island, fish in the 10 to 15 lb. category. Large pollack are in the same area

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A fair catch of pollack and cod for Ken Mario and Roy. The fish were taken on jig and tube combos and bait aboard the charter boat Vivienne at Montauk.

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Jake Caruso lead a party from Cloister NJ on a charter aboard the Adios. The group wound up with a nice mess of cod and mackerel.

and can be taken trolled or on jigs. The cod are hitting bait. Pollack are running 15 to 20 lbs. Joe says that he still has some open shark dates for late June. See ad for details.

Charter boat **Daybreak** reports that cod catches on Saturday saw 12 pollack to 35 lbs. taken on trolled umbrellas fishing Block Island waters. The fish ran 21 to 35 lbs.

Robert Shane of **Shane's Marine Supply** in Island Park fishing at Montauk during the week had a solid catch of mixed cod and pollack and Robert himself had a pollack that hit 35 lbs.

Charter boat **King Wayne** also reports solid catches of cod and pollack. Some bluefish are starting to show as are some fluke as well.

Capt. Zak of the charter boat **Mako Express** called to say that the boat is now in the water at West Lake Fishing Lodge and that he is now accepting charters, both inshore and offshore, specializing in shark. See ad for details.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
WEAKS

SHINNECOCK

Thom at **Speck's Bait & Tackle** reported weakfish from 3 to 11 lbs. and blues up to 7 lbs. being taken at South Race and the Rose Grove. Jelly worm and squid strip combos have been taking most of the fish. On Saturday, a quartet of Bronx anglers Jimmy Lopez, John and Andy Avieles and Shorty Ruiz totaled 20 weakfish, 2 blues and 1 big porgy fishing from one of Thom's rental skiffs. 11 year old Joey Cisar had 3 weakfish up to 9½ lbs. at Cow Neck while Rudy Norsic used a jelly worm and squid combo to dupe a 6¼ lb. fluke at the same location. Thom said the secret to the Peconic Bay weaks is to get down below the bluefish.

The **Capt. Clark II** has been having good weakfish at Roses Grove and Middle Grounds. These are big fish in the 8 to 12 lb. range. Catches are averaging 40 to 50 per day on the weakfish, depending on wind conditions. Jelly worms and Twisters with squid trailers and squid worm combos are all effective. The boat is also making drops for porgies each day with excellent results. Saturday and Sunday saw over 150 porgies caught each day from 2 to 3½ lbs. on sand worms and squid.

HAMPTON BAYS

At **Corr's Fishing Station**, Mickey reported very good weakfishing on Saturday. One boatman who stumbled across a large body of fish that were beneath the bunker schools and bluefish totaled 40 tiderunners from 7 to 12 lbs. He snagged the bunker and used bunker chunks for bait. Quite a few blues in the area with some running up to 7 and 8 lbs. Best spot for both weaks and blues has been the Nationals.

MORICHES BAY

Jim at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** reported super flounder fishing from last Wednesday through Sunday. Fish have been run ½ to 2½ lbs. with worms and red dyed clams working best. Clam or mussel chum

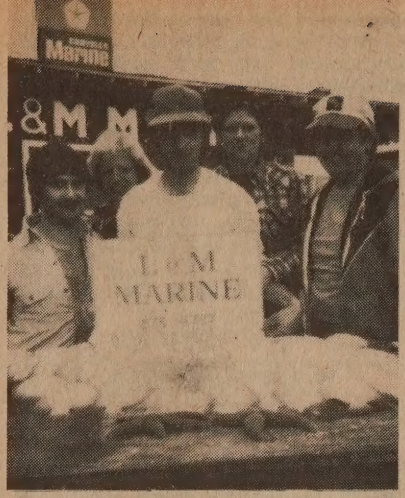
Mat Palazola with a 27 lb. pollack taken at SW Ledge aboard the Cassyl out of Gone Fishing Marina.

sary such is the fishing. On Saturday John, Wayne, Darren and Audrey Kropp returned to the station with over 150 flatties from the buoy 42-44 area. Walter Czekaj and his sons Walt, Jr. and Dave totaled 108 keeper flounder at buoy 42 using worms and red dyed clams. Also on Saturday, Ira Schoulder and Stu and Rob Cohen fished the buoy 43-44 area with clams and worms to take 154 flounder.

Bill at **East Moriches Bait & Tackle** underscored the excellent flounder fishing in Moriches Bay. He figured that boats have been averaging anywhere from 80 to 125 flatties apiece. Most of the fishing seems to be concentrated at buoys 44 and 45 and also buoys 27 and 29. Fish are averaging in the 1 lb. range and are being taken on bloodworms and mussel chum. Some weakfish in the deeper holes of the bay and also at the Smith's Point bridge. Jelly worm and Salty Dog squid combos have been accounting for fish in the 8 to 10 lb. class. A few fluke starting to show at buoys 27 and 29 and Bill knew that atleast one boatman trolled up some blues on the Inlet bar over the weekend.

Al at **Highway Fishing Station** called to say that George and Keith Forrest boated 122 keeper flounders fishing west of buoy 29. This was in just 3 hours fishing Saturday morning. All the rental boats did very well with flounders in the beautiful weather that prevailed Saturday.

Chet at **B&B Tackle** says this past week has seen super flounder action all over Moriches Bay, Hart's Cove, Seatuck Cove and buoys 27 and 29. Sand and blood worms plus plenty of mussel chum produced nice sized fish, mostly keepers. A few fluke were taken in the same area in the West Cut and at the Coast Guard Station on sand eels and squid. A



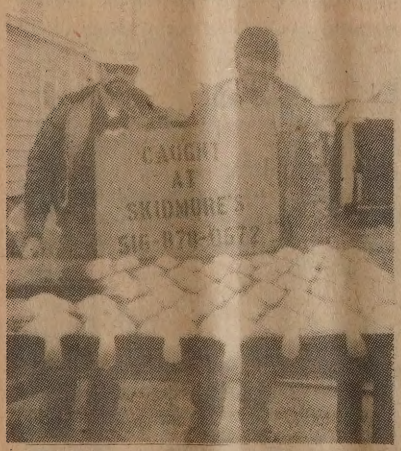
This fine catch of 70 flounder was made north of buoy 42 on worms and mussel chum by Peter, Mark, Tony, Wayne and Vera. Photo courtesy of L&M Marine.

few weaks at buoy 50 and the hole at buoy 42. These fish are 2½ to 3 pounders and are hitting pink touts and jelly worms. Some school blues are around, driving weak fishermen nuts. A few small brown shark have been taken, a forerunner of things to come.

L&M Marine tells of continuing fantastic flounder fishing with all boats catching heavy, Blood and sand worms plus corn and mussel chum are the ticket to success. Joe Ares, Alex and Adolpho Martine caught 250 flounder between buoys 39-41. Mickey De Marco and 2 pals from Brooklyn boated 305 keepers at buoy 43.

Romono at **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** happily says that this past week has been the best that the flounder have been hitting all season long. On Saturday Arnold White, Jersey, accounted for 110 keepers. Sunday's catches were even better. Carlos Albello and Willie Lang of Rosedale bagged 160 flounder. The south side of the channel between buoys 38 and 39 and a little beyond was prime territory. All boats loaded up. Hook bait was blood, sand worms and dyed clam with mussel chum. Action was on both running tides and catches were like the good old days. Another big recent catch was had by Robert and Joel Schoen and friend Robert Gootfriend all of Douglaston. They had 109 flounder at buoy 39 up to 1½ lbs. The station is now carrying live bass eels which should be of interest to all bass hounds.

Cheryl of **Westhampton Marine Supplies** reported good sized flounders being taken on worms at Great Gun Beach. Lots of bunkers in the local bay areas and netters working the beach have been taking both bass and blues in their nets.



Rich Leath and Joel Schwartz display a catch of 52 flounder taken at buoy 42 on blood worms and mussels. In addition many more fish were returned to the water. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
WEAKS

SAYVILLE

From **Young's Fishing Station** Bob Lee reported that boatmen continue to take weaks at buoys 12, 13, 13A and West Island. Fish are just beginning to show on the flats. On Friday Mike Andreycisk and Danny Borrelli both of Brooklyn, returned from Ocean Beach with 10 weaks up to 14 lbs. On Saturday the pair returned to take 12 more tiderunners

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up to 11 lbs. from the same area. All of their fishing was done with sand worms which have had the edge over artificials. Also on Saturday Clay Hardman, Steve Cohen, Joe Gutierrez and Mike Barbarro returned with 4 weakfish to 11 lbs. and 5 bluefish. The choppers which run anywhere from 2 to 7 lbs. are now spread pretty well throughout the bay. Very good blackfishing at the Kismet Reef and fluke being taken in the Inlet area although most of the fish are shorts.

OAKDALE

John at **J&R Sports Center** reported that most boatmen had been working Ocean Beach, Range Channel and West Channel for weakfish. Sandworms and jelly worms have been taking fish up to 12 lbs. Lots of small fluke in the Inlet area but most are undersized. They are being taken on spearing and sand eels. Plenty of blues roaming the bay and inlet and making short work of jelly worms meant for weakfish. Charlie Peppard of the West Sayville Movin Man got around this problem by trolling the Lighthouse area to take 35 of the choppers in the 4 to 5 lb. class. This was on Saturday.

BAY SHORE

Carl Miller at **Smokey's Bait & Tackle** described the weakfishing as good. He weighed in a 13 lb. 1 oz. tiderunner for Glen Guthiel on Sunday. The fish was taken at West Island on a strawberry jelly worm. Don Fuchs checked in a few weaks up to 9½ lbs. which he took at buoy 13 on jelly worms. Bob Safranek of the Katie Ben weighed in a 9 lb. tiderunner that he took on a sand worm at Ocean Beach. John Peters had a white jelly worm picked up by an 8 lb. blackfish on the same Ocean Beach grounds. On Saturday, Bay Shore Tuna Club members Ed Wills, Jr. and Sr. fished buoy 12 aboard their boat Wild Turkey and managed 2 fine fluke which checked in at 4 lbs. 5 oz. and 5 lb. 3 oz. Carl said that fluking from the bridge to the inlet has been improving daily although most of the fish must be returned. A few big sea bass being picked up at Ocean Beach and quite a few small blues throughout the bay.

★GREENPORT★

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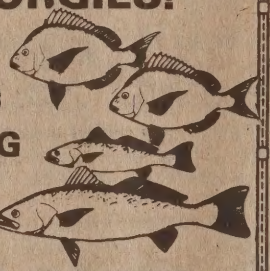

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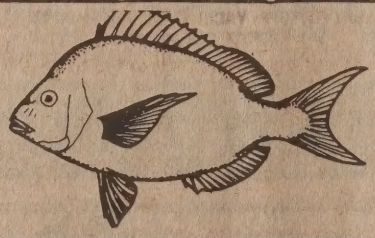

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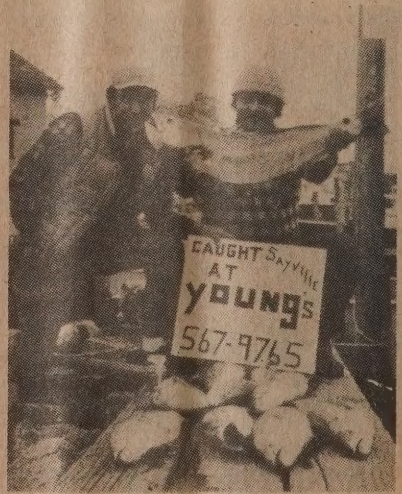
CAPTREE

The open boat **Capt. Ben Litwin** reported that they have been dividing their fishing between the flounder and newly arrived fluke. While there are now good numbers of the summer flatfish in the inlet area, most must be returned to the water as they are under the legal 14" minimum size. On Saturday a 4½ lb. fluke came over the rail while a 6 lb. blackfish took a worm bait meant for a flounder near Kismet.

Capt. Rod Westerlind of the open boat **Capt. Rod** reported most of the flounder fishing is now concentrated in the inlet area. He called the flounder fishing fair with most of the aciton taking place during the first part of incoming on worms and clams. A lot of small fluke being taken on spearing, sand eels and killies but Rod figures the throw-



Mike Andreycisk and Danny Borrelli both of Brooklyn with 10 weaks up to 14 lbs. taken on sand worms at Ocean Beach. Photo courtesy of Young's Fishing Station.

back ratio is 8 to 1. This should improve considerably on a daily basis however. The Capt. knew that a 10 lb. dormat was taken aboard the open boat **Jib V** on Friday.

Noel of the **Captree Bait Station** reported that the flounder fishing from the pier right in front of the shop is the best he has seen in years. Worms have been taking plenty of flatties from ¾ lb. on up with the fastest action occuring during incoming water. A few blackfish being picked up at the Robert Moses Piers on fiddlers. Casters workig the sand bar under the Robert Moses Bridge, with spearing and sand eels have been picking a way at the fluke as well as an occasional stray bluefish. Party boats continue to take big weakfish from the Lighthouse area to Ocean Beach on jelly worms and sand worms. The best action has been on the sands. Biggest weak Noel weighed in over the weekend was a 11¼ pounder. Plenty of 4 to 5 lb. blues being trolled inside from the Lighthouse to the inlet.

The **Capt. Gillen** tells of some fluke being taken in the area of the bridge, some keepers, some midgets. Also the boats have been getting some good shots at late afternoon weakfish. The smallest Jim has seen at the dock has been 5 lb. class fish. The fluking appears to be getting stronger on a daily basis.

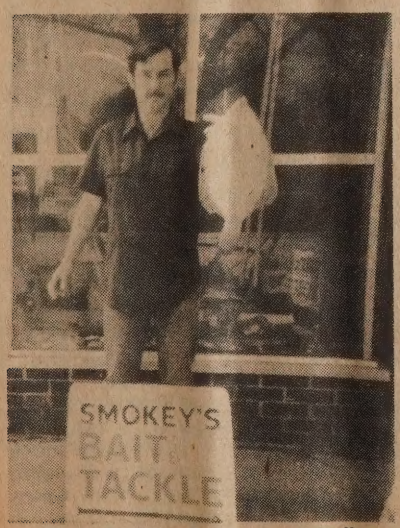
Charter boat **Capt. Leo** tells us that there is lots of fluke action in Fire Island Inlet but a great number of these fish are shorts. However, it marked the beginning of the Great South Bay fluke season.

BABYLON

Margaret of **Charlie's Fishing Station** reported some flounder still being taken off of Bergen Point on worms. Weakfish at the Babylon Cut and West Channel on jelly worms and sand worms and a decent body of fluke in the inlet area. The summer flatfish are being taken on spearing, sand eels and squid strips but the majority of them are throwbacks. Fluke under 14" should be handled as gently as possible and returned to the water immediately.

High Hook Fishing Station informs us that Joe Vaccaro of Middle Village caught 4 weakfish 6 lbs. and 3 over 9. All on sand worms drifting near buoy 13 and John Spucches of Millertown caught a 14 lb. plus weakfish on a jelly worm with a squid strip.

Capt. Ron of the charter boat **Seabird** called to tell us that Saturday nights open trip for weakfish saw several fish caught with lots that broke off fishing the Ocean Beach area. A 5½ lb. weak took the pool. Some 2 to 3 lb. bluefish were mixed in. Sunday's charter for George Werner and group from the VFW had good floundering for fish up to 2 lbs. at the Sore Thumb. A couple of keeper fluke and a fair number of throw-backs were also picked up. Ron says that Saturday the boat will be sailing open for weakfish sailing 2 trips, 6 a.m. and 3p.m.



Tom Smith of Brentwood displays the 3 lb. 2 oz. flounder that he caught at Promised Land recently. Photo courtesy of Smokey's Bait & Tackle.

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AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait & Tackle reported fair weakfishing at Unqua Point at the top of the tide. Fish are 3 to 4 lbs. and being taken on sand worms and grass shrimp. George has a good stock of the necessary shrimp for those interested in chumming up a bunch of weaks. Bigger yellowfins in the State Channel near Zachs Bay and the bridges. Boatmen who run east to West Channel and Ocean Bridge returned with big weaks also. Jeff White had 12 tiderunners up to 10¾ lbs. on sand worms at West Channel. Most boats averaged 2 to 4 fish. George suggested using high/lo rigs with a sand worm on the upper hook and a squid strip on the lower hook. This covers both weakfish and fluke which have begun showing in the area. Very good blackfishing at the bridges on green crabs and for those looking to take a last shot at the flounder George suggested Squaw Island, Wanser's Cut and the west entrance to Zachs Bay. All three areas continue to produce goor late season flatfishing.

SEAFORD

John of **Pop's Fishing Station** described the flounder fishing as good at Four Corners, Squaw Island and the 3rd Wantagh Bridge. On Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Duryea and their children returned with 65 flounder including many 2 pounders from Squaw Island. They used worms and chummed with mussels and corn. The Correra, Falcone and Swift party had 55 flatties up to 2½ lbs. at buoys 13 and 14 on worms Saturday. Also Saturday a party of 3 had an outstanding catch of 185 flatties made at buoy 13 and 14 and in the drains on worms. Fluke are around but a lot of shorts dominate the catches.

Lon Wanser reported from his bait & tackle shop that Ann and Steve Weiss stopped by with 41 keeper flounder up to 1¼ lbs. on Saturday. The pair returned many more smaller fish. Fishing was done at Squaw Island with worms and mussel chum. Best flat fishing has been near the top of the tide and first of outgoing. Good blackfishing at all of the bridges and weakfish being taken at the same structures in addition to the State Channel from Zachs Bay to Tobay. Best weakfish action has been on incoming water with sand worms accounting for the best scores. Walter Eckhoff and Ernie Welch trekked east to Ocean Beach to take 12 weakfish up to 9¾ lbs. on Saturday. The catch was made on sand worms. Lon has had a run on sinking Rebels so he believes that some anglers have begun to take fish on the minnow imitations. Fluke have begun putting in an appearance but the best fishing is still a week or two away.

Bob's Fishing Station tells us that on Sunday Harold Brunks boated 31 good flounder at the 3rd Wantagh on worm and corn chum. Fish ran to 2 lbs. Blackfish were at the bridge also and hit worms. They were also in the 2 lb. category. On Saturday Wally, a regular, boated 40 flounder and a few blowfish at Massapequa Cove. This was on blood worms and mussel chum.

Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station reports that John Grotheer and Bob Jones of Ridgewood, filled the boat with 95 flatties from 1 to 2 lbs., all fat fish. This was at Squaw Island on worm and mussel and clam chum on Thursday. Lots of flounder were caught by all rental skiffs Saturday. Sunday saw Joe Trupia and Steve Hagerty and Art Wright pull 56 fat keepers in just an hour and a half fishing just east of the Wantagh drawbridge on the last of the ebb on worm and clam chum. Rich Madison boated 10 keeper fluke on Saturday in Reynold's Channel near the town marina on killies squid combos.

BELLMORE

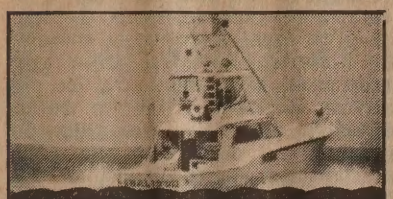
Scott at **Merrick Tackle** told us that weakfish have been caught this past week on sand worms from the Meadowbrook Bridge east to the 3rd Wantagh Bridge and in front of the piers while drifting with high/lo rigs. Mornings and evenings, the "quite hours" have been best for these 3 to 6 lb. beauties. Lots of short fluke and a few keepers as well have been hitting squid sand eel combos in the Jones Inlet area. Flounder fishing remains good around the Meadowbrook Bridge, Swift Creek and in front of the Coast Guard Station.

MERRICK

L.I.F. staffer Stu Miller fishing with the infamous G. Korn and offspring Larry, filled the bucket with 56 flounder from ¾ lb. to 1¾ lb., fishing rowboat alley. Both running tides produced with both blood and sand worms catching equally and help from corn and rice chum. Stu and Phil Kingcrab Gillermo returned to the spot in rowboat alley on Sunday and in the rain repeated the previous day's action to the tune of 38 flounders of the same size. Any one passing by this fast flounder action for chancy catches on fluke may be committing a boo-boo. These fish are fat and are delicious.

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** tells us that George Linkus had 55 flounder in the 1 to 1¼ lb. range on Saturday fishing with pals Pete Nigron and Fred Korcan of Queens. A few small fluke have been taken in Swift Creek and Broad Creek on flounder rigs. Good blackfishing at the big Meadowbrook Bridge fishing 1½ hours on either side of the slack, blacks going to 6 lbs. Fiddlers, green crabs or soft bait will do it.

★FREEPORT★



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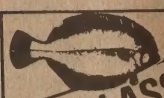
These nice blacks were taken by members of the Double T Fishing Club during a club trip aboard the Marie III.



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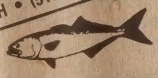

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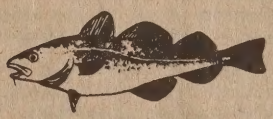

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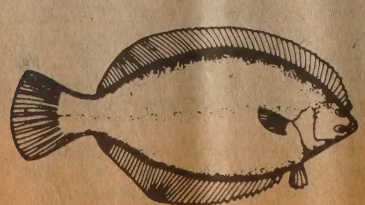

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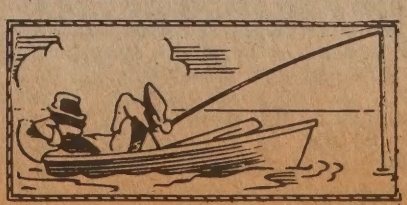

WEST END SOUTH SHORE

★ BEST BET ★ FLOUNDER

BALDWIN

Andy at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** tells us that on Saturday Greg Musninski and Dad took 35 flounder up to 2 lbs. fishing buoy 16 Reynold's Channel on the ebb. Doctor Stu Bernstein had another 9 weakfish, more than likely from Ocean Beach. A few fluke, mainly shorts, but a start in the back bays. Some Meadowbrook Bridge blackfish being taken on fiddlers and sand worms.

FREEPORT

The word from **Anthony's Fishing Station** was some good catches of flounder being made in Merrick Bay in the vicinity of the golf course on worms and mussel or clam chum. Sand worms taking weakfish at the Meadowbrook Bridge and good blackfishing at all of the bridges in the area on fiddlers and green crabs.

Charter boat **Capt. Gary** called to say that his trip for Mitchell Bogeix of East Meadow resulted in 17 good flounder taken at the Coast Guard Station and at Swift Creek. Frank and Angelo Banner of Elmhurst took home 23 flounder on that trip. Gary says the boat will be sailing open Thursday, Saturday and Memorial Day. Call for sailing time.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed of **Ed's Fishing Station** reported very good flounder fishing at buoys 17 and 18 in Reynold's Channel and also on the nearby flats. Worm have been accounting for most of the fish. On Friday Joe Decker, Ed Durand and Fred Durand fished buoy 17 and returned with 30 big flounder, nothing under a pound and 14 keeper fluke. This fluke catch was topped by Carl Frey who had 40 of the new arrivals on spearing in Reynold's Channel. Carl kept 23 fluke up to 3 lbs. Good blackfishing at both the Meadowbrook and Long Creek Bridges according to Ed.

Capt. Dennis of the **Marie III** called to say that Saturday's experimental wreck trip in which he tested 3 wrecks resulted in substantial catches of ling, 2 sea bass up to 2 lb. 8 oz. and a few blackfish. Dennis emphaized that there was lots of ling to be had up to 3 lbs. On soggy Sunday the charter for St. Hedwig's Church Holy Name Society had flounder up to 2¾ lbs., with Walter Iwinski bagging the big fish of the day. The skipper called the fish good, not great. Lots of drops were made. Action was from Reynold's Channel, Buoy 17 up to the Meadowbrook Bridge. A few blacks and blowfish were also taken during the day. Dennis's father fishing the Meadowbrook bridge on Thursday bagged 35 blacks up to 5 lbs. fishing 1½ hours on either side of high slack with fiddlers. Sunday's trip also took a mess of flounders in Cinder Creek and Fundy Bay. Some fluke have been picked outside the fishing stations in Reynold's Channel.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie reported from **Beckmann's Tackle Shop** that there was some good flounder fishing east of the Meadowbrook Bridge on the south side of the Channel on Saturday. A pair of anglers returned with a super catch of 44 flatfish all in the 1½ to 2¼ lb. class taken on worms and mussel chum from this location. Blackfishing excellent at all the bridges and rockpiles on fiddlers and green crabs and while fluke are around most of those being taken are undersized.

The **Commodore** tells of a good showing of fluke on Sunday in the Reynold's Channel area and building on a daily basis. Sunday saw some fares walking off the boat with 5 or 6 keeper fluke. The boat's entire activities until further notice will be fluke and they are being caught on spearing and sand eels. Lots of short and sundials. Action also at East Rockaway Inlet. For those after flounder, they are still in the back bays in the mud. Unusual for this time of year says Clem.

LONG BEACH

Frank at **Long Beach Sports Marina** reported good flatfishing on Saturday with some boats returning with catches of 40 flounder apiece. Worms and mussel chum working best with most of the action concentrated at Duck Point and the Cedarhurst Yacht Club. Fluke just getting started taking spearing and sand eels in the channel. A lot of throw-backs mixed in. On Friday Capt. Gary Senser journeyed east to Fire Island to take 7 weaks from 7 to 12 lbs. on jelly worms.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Sy Rubin at **Henning's Fishing Station** said that while Sunday was a washout fishing was good on Saturday. Flounder cooperated off of the Cedarhurst Yacht Club for those using worms. Those looking for quality should spend some time at buoy 5 according to Sy. Blackfish up to 8 lbs. being taken on crabs and clams at the bridges and a few fluke in the channel on spearing, squid and sand eels. Sy had an unconfirmed report of a mako taken offshore over the weekend.

The word from **Skippy's Tackle Shop** was that anglers in the area are enjoying the best blackfishing in years at the Atlantic Beach Bridge, the Silver Point Jetty and on some of the inshore wrecks. Fiddler and green crabs both accounting for big catches of tautogs. Fluke being picked up towards Jones Inlet on spearing and sand eels and good flounder fishing continues in the channels for those using worm bait. And yes, the whale is back.

JAMAICA BAY

John at **Cross Bay Bait & Tackle** said that while there are still a few flounder being taken from the bridges on worms and clams, the blackfish have begun to over shadow the flatties. Both fiddlers and clams are working on the blacks.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** reported that fluke have now established themselves in the area. Casters take them at the storm sewers while boatmen have been working the area from Great Kills Park to Annandale. Blackfish now in good supply with most averaging 1½ to 2 lbs. and some going to 5 lbs. Both flounder and blackfish being taken at Piers 12 and 17 on worms and clams.

Nancy Wells hefts a 28 lb. cod which she took aboard the Captree open boat Speedy VI.

PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★ WEAKS

GREENPORT

A.P. White Bait & Tackle tells us that charter boat **Nancy Ann** has been doing some really good weakfishing. Sunday's charter for Spring Brook Fishing Club totaled 87 weakfish and 25 blues and all big fish. This is on jelly worms with squid strips or Twisters and squid strip. A 15 lb. weak was caught off the Greenport Jetty on a jelly worm squid strip combo. Capt. Roddy DeLisle's charter boat **Prowler II** had a mess of weaks and blues Thursday. Carolyn Creed of Northport had an 11 lb. 13 oz. weak. There are big flounder in good quantities at Gardiner's fishing off the Ruins and Bostwick. These fish are in the 2½ to 3 lb. range. The flatties are hitting sand worm, clam and mussel. A few blackfish are mixed in. Petty's Bight is holding smaller flounder now.

Art also tells us that the **Peconic Star** had a charter for the Mori party on Sunday night and did a job with roughly 150 weaks and blues mixed. The boat did well on a Saturday night weakfish charter also. Art also says that the open boat **Brand X** is having great results with the weakfish and blues and fares are really bagging up.

Capt. George Porter of the **Brand X** called to tells us of the great weakfishing, fish going up to 10 lbs. and blues up to 6½ lbs. on Friday nights and Saturday nights trip. George says as soon as he turned on the boat's lights, the fish were coming all night long. The action was tremendous says the skipper and it was just like old times. Squid fished on the bottom on a high/lo rig with conventional tackle is the way to go and results are best after dark.

Bob Benett displays the 14 lb. 3 oz. weakfish he took south of buoy 18. The huge tiderunner was taken on a yellow bucktail adorned with a strip of squid. Photo courtesy of Port of Egypt Fishing Station.

SOUTHOLD

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** says that the catches are really terrific. Saturday good action was from the Steps at Roses Grove to Buoy 14, weakfish action was hot for fish up to 14 lbs. 3 oz. Most ran 6 to 10 lbs. and they were hitting on just about everything. Bob Bennett of Seaford took the 14 lb. 3 oz. tiderunner on yellow bucktail and squid strip fishing at 10 p.m. during the week. Six anglers working out of a 18' rental skiff anchored up at buoy 17 and accounted for 40 weakfish up to 10 lbs. at Jessups using squid on a high/lo rig. Fish are hitting on both tides. Sunday saw a group from Staten Island boat 17 weaks up to 9½ lbs. drifting from Jessups to Ward's 14. Sand worms with 1½ oz. splitshot at the top of a 4' leader was the ticket. Ace says that anything with squid strips will catch fish now. Good blackfishing at the brick yard and off Greenlawn. One boat had 24 blacks to 8½ lbs. on green crab.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station tells us of big weakfish to 14½ lbs. caught by Ernest Brown of Queens. This was at buoy 23 on red jelly worms. Ernest totaled 19 weakfish. Weaks and porgies were caught at buoy 23 Sunday. Weakfish in general are running 6 to 14½ lbs. A couple on Sunday took 12 weaks and 22 porgies on a drift. The porgies ran 2¼ to 3 lbs. Both weaks and porgies were on red jelly worms. Weaks were also at buoys 28 and 29. Another boat had 32 weaks Saturday another skiff had over 40 weaks at buoy 28 and 29. Another skiff Saturday jigged 33 from deep water at Roses Grove on jelly worms.

NOYAC

Noyac Marina reports plenty of beautiful weaks in Noyac Bay but there is heavy interference from hungry bluefish, therefore making the weaks more of a challenge. Charlie Soffel of Noyac fished with Tom Doyle of East Nassau and they had a 10¼ lb. fluke and a 12½ lb. weak at buoy 16. Largest weak weighed in to date hit 13½ lbs.

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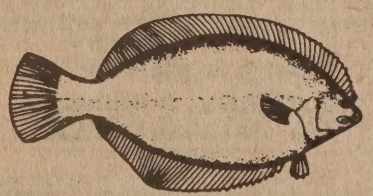

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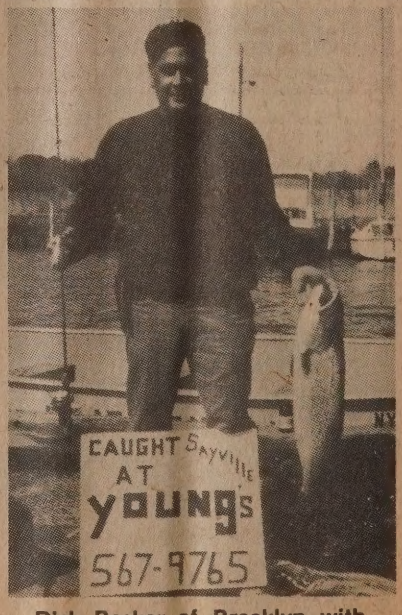

Dick Becker of Brooklyn with an 11 lb. weakfish taken on a sand worm at Ocean Beach. His catch included 9 other tiderunners. Photo courtesy of Young's Fishings Station.

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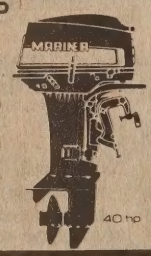

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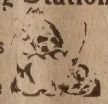

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SAG HARBOR

Chris at **Bayview Marine & Tackle** tells us that the weakfish are here! Blues are here too he adds. He weighed in a 13¾ lb. weak for local angler Bob Dipple. Bluefish are averaging 3 to 5 lbs. Weakfish are being taken on drifted worms, jelly worms or squid. They're averaging 8 to 12 lbs. Best areas are South Ferry, Noyac Bay at buoy 16 and Mashomak Point, any tide.

Capt. Artie Latch of the **Wilhelric** tells us that Gardiner's Island is coming alive with snowshoes with the numbers increasing every day. Saturday most fares had 10 to 15 a man. The pool went 3½ lbs. Lots of fish in the 2 to 3 lb. range. Mussel, clam combos work best on an ebbing tide. Plenty but smaller flatties at Orient and Petty's Bight. Thursday's nights initial weakfish trip of the season was hugely successful says Artie. The pool fish went 15 lbs. They would start to get weakfish and would then be blitzed by screaming bluefish at Jessups. Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights all followed the same pattern. Catches are 25 percent weaks, 75 percent blues. Blues are running from 1½ to 8 lbs., weakfish 2 to 15 lbs. Catches are on squid strips on high/lo rigs fished on the bottom. Two tourists Friday loaded up and repeated the same heavy catch the following night. Artie says many anglers are coming out for the flounder weakfish combo trip as outlined in his ad, but reversing which trip they are sailing first. Max Gilgoff of Brooklyn who fished aboard the **Wilhelric** on Thursday stopped by to tell us that he had caught a 11½ lb. weak on squid strip.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Bait & Tackle tells of weakfish in the bay with blues mixed in. The weaks are up to 12 lbs. 4 oz. and the blues are going up to 7 lbs. They are hitting on all tides, best action at Robin's Island and Cow Neck. Warren suggests that you also try whole sand worms. Jelly worms are another good item, but all bait must be on or very close to the bottom. The famous Warren lure worked on the bottom is proven very popular with local anglers. Flounders are in the Sound from Greenport to Orient. These fish are running 1 to 3 lbs. and are fat and are hitting on both tides in quantities. Warren says to remember that it is illegal to keep any weakfish under 12". We feel that anyone who would keep a weakfish under 12" would suck eggs.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND
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FLOUNDER

ROCKY POINT

Stan at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** reported super blackfishing from Hagerman's Landing to Hallock's Landing. Fish are averaging 3 to 5 lbs. and being taken on fiddlers and green crabs. An outstanding catch over the weekend was the 15¼ lb. blackfish taken by 6 yr. old John Segrick who was fishing with his Uncle Tom near the Shoreham pipeline. As far as Stan can remember this is the biggest tautog to come out of the area in many a year. Congratulations Tom. Flounder appear to be finished and mackerel are there but scattered. A few weakfish mixed among the mackerel.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station reports the blackfishing is building off the beaches on rocks and mussel beds. Mt. Misery Rocks and Shoreham are producing blackfish to 10¼ lbs. Fiddlers and green crabs are the ticket all around the slack tides. Porgies and sea bass of the ¾ lb. variety are being caught at Shoreham. Flounders are being taken outside the harbor on sand worms. The mackerel have slowed down but Ralph expects them to pick up again.

Bob at **Fisherman's Haven** reports lots of blacks off Cedar Beach up to 6 lbs. Sunday a 9 pounder was taken off the beach. They're hitting on both tides on soft bait such as worm or clam. A few short stripers have been caught from Cedar Beach to Rocky Point. Legal fish have been caught inside Port Jeff harbor in the dark on broken back Rebels, various colors. Some fluke at buoy 11. Mackerel action was great on Wednesday off the beach but that it's been slow since then. The macks Wednesday were caught on Hopkins and Kastmasters.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station tells us that the mackerel have moved though some are still being caught. The first blues of the season have been jigged up on mackerel jigs at buoy 11 and Middle Grounds. Weakfish also at buoy 11 on diamond jigs. Sand worms or jelly worms can also

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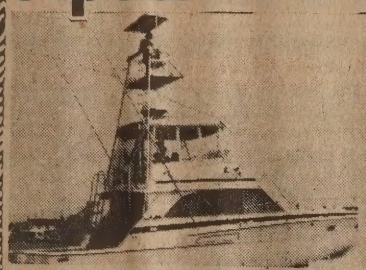

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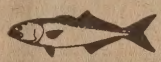

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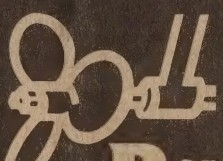

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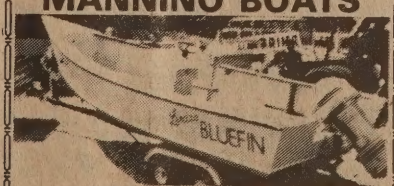

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be used with good success here. Thirty humpback porgies were taken by one rental boat Saturday fishing worm and clam bait at Mt. Misery Shoals. On Sunday lots of flounder were caught with some boats topping the 100 keeper mark. Best bet for the flatties is Mt. Misery Pt. and Buoy 11 for a lot of 1½ lb. fish. Plenty of blackfish all along the beaches hitting worm, clam and mussel and running to 11 lbs. Mike Kutzing had the 11 pounder. The Port Jeff angler took this bruiser from the Port Jeff Beach.

KINGS PARK

O.K. Bait & Tackle reports flounder and blackfishing are still good in their local waters while mackerel have been spotty over the weekend. Weaks are making a good showing. This is on sand worms or jelly worms. A few stripers have been plugged along the beach. On Saturday Charlie Johnson had 17 flounder to 2 lbs. and a 10 lb. black fishing Callaghan's on worms. Charlie also took a 4 lb. weakfish.

NORTHPORT

Tom Bowman reported from **Bowman's Tackle Shop** that blackfish are the No 1 attention getter in the area. He weighed in a 10 ½ lb. black on Saturday for Fred Haenei. The huge tautog was taken on a sandworm at the Coast Guard Station. Good blackfishing throughout the area with the best action occuring near the top of the tide. A few flounders still around on worms and mackerel remain a hit or miss proposition.

HUNTINGTON

George Valentine told us from his **Four Winds Tackle Shop** that boatmen got in a good inning with the blackfish at Eaton's Neck on Saturday. Peggy Beringer checked in a 6¼ lb. blackfish and a 2½ lb. weak both of which were taken on a flounder rig. Flounder fishing in the area is tampering off and mackerel are around but scattered.

Ronnie Ferrara of **Ronnie's Tackle Shop** broke the news of the season's first big cow bass. Ed Cotiaux of Huntington fishing with Bill Hughes also of Huntington, clicked with a 40 lb. striper while worm trolling along the Cold Spring Harbor Causeway Friday night. On Sunday Vinnie Porcelli, his son Mike and 2 friends fished Eaton's Neck and returned with 33 flounder up to 1½ lbs. and 13 blackfish from 3 to 5½ lbs. All the action was on worms. Eddie Wellach and Lee Cambro checked in weakfish of 8 and 10 lbs. over the weekend.

The **Ever Ready** is running a $50 boat prize as a Memorial Day special. Last week's activity saw Stephanie Horn of East Northport taking the big fish of the week which

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was a 7 lb. blackfish. Seven yr. old Richard Van Den Berger of Pauling NY was high hook with 19 flounder on one trip. On the mackerel run Michael Kulbersh of Huntington took the pool with a 4½ lb. weak. Check this week's ad for latest change in sailing schedule and also details on the $50 prize.

Charter boat **Eclipse** reports mackerel have moved to the east but that the weakfishing is good now and that his parties have been trolling them outside the harbor on wire line, picking up good catches of 4 to 5 lb. specimens. Good blackfish up to 5 lbs. plus good sized flounder are being taken at buoy 13 on worms.

GLEN COVE

John at **Glen Cove Sports Shop** said that fishing in the area seems to be on the upswing. Worm trollers have been taking lots of bass at Maxwell's, Peacock Point and west of Dorsoris Creek. Most however are shorts. Charlie Bard checked in a catch of 6 blackfish from 4 to 8 lbs. in addition to a mess of flounder up to 1½ lbs. which he took on worms in the vicinity of East Island. Howard Bernstein worked the Prybil Pier on Friday and Saturday and totaled 25 keeper flounder on sand worms and corn rigs. Blackfishing in the area is in full swing. David Watts who works at the store, looked over a catch of 40 blackfish from 1 to 6 lbs. made at Crescent Beach by a pair of anglers using clams, fiddler crabs and sand worms. This was Sunday afternoon. Joe Duso continues to lead the flounder category of the store contest with a 2 lb. 10 oz. flattie.

Capt. Joe of the **Lady Lil II** reports Saturday's fishing was good. The boat is now switching over to flounders and blacks with good catches being made at Eaton's Neck and on the Conn. coast.

NORTH SHORE WEST END
★ BEST BET ★ FLOUNDER

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait & Tackle relayed word of super blackfishing at all the usual tautog haunts. Fiddlers and green crabs have been accounting for fish up to 9 and 10 lbs. All of Jack's rental skiffs scored with the tautogs this past weekend. A few flounder and mackerel being taken in the area and lots of small bass for casters and worm trollers at Hart's Island and Turtle Cove.

SURF REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

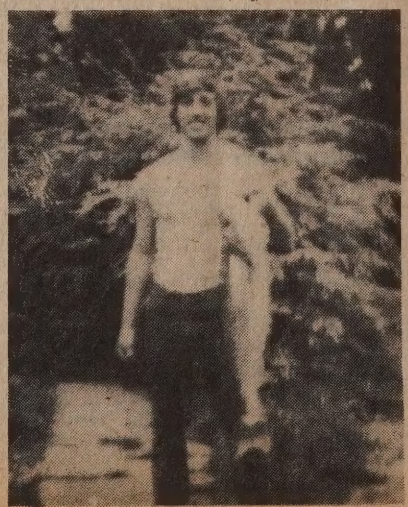
With June approaching, Long Island surf fishermen can look forward to a little more variety as weakfish and blues begin establishing themselves along North Shore beaches.

South Shore surfmen should get in some innings with choppers before the week is out and weakfishing along the "backsides" of Fire Island and Jones Inlet should shape up in the weeks ahead.

A scattering of big stripers by the first week of June will offer enough incentive to inspire some of us to start burning the candle at both ends.

By now, baitfish are becoming fairly abundant around our Island's beaches and artificials are becoming increasingly more effective. A good way to improve the effectiveness of plugs such as Rebels, Redfins, Atoms, and Dannys as well as lures like the Tri-Fin Eelworm, Whiptail and tin is to fish a feathered teaser a couple of feet ahead of the lure. It makes for a deadly combination that often induces strikes when all else fails. Dropper, as they are known by most casters, can be purchased locally at **Ronnie's Bait and Tackle** in Huntington. Ronnie was hard put last June to keep up with the demand created by the good action along the "causeway," where many weaks and bass fell to Rebel and dropper combos.

For those who prefer to shop through the mail, Angling Aids, P. O. Box 280, Old Saybrook, Conn., turns out a fine looking teaser that is available in white, yellow, blue, olive, pink, brown, black, blue/white and olive/white. They are $1.39 each, five for $5.95, and ten for $9.95.



Jim Carter took this 9 1/2 lb. tiderunner weak at Ocean Beach. Subscriber Club Photo.

Reports for the past week shaped up as follows:

South Shore

Lenny of **Santo's Sport Shop** reported from Staten Island that bass fishing was on the slow side this week. Most action was concentrated at Jersey St., but a few fish were also taken at Penney Beach, Cliff St., and Great Kills Park. Worms still take most of the fish although bucktailers scored with a couple of fish at Penney Beach and Cliff St. Fish run from shorts up to 3 lbs. Bluefish have begun showing from Great Kills Park to Annandale where chunk bait produced fish from 5-8 lbs. Fish were taken on incoming water.

John at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** told me that blues in the 2-4 lb. class are being picked up at the N. Channel bridge on bunker chunks. A few small bass also at the bridge on sandworms.

In the Jones Beach area, George Combs said from his Amityville shop that very few guys are putting in any time in the area. He did know that netters have been taking lots of small bass along the beach.

Paul McCormick of Massapequa checked out the banks in the vicnity of the 3rd Wantagh Bridge Tuesday night and found things very quiet. Friday night he fished east near the Captree drawbridge. Neither he nor any of the other casters working the bank did anything.

Out at Shinnecock, Thom of **Speck's Tackle Shop** reported that the only surf action in his area is the bluefishing being done from the shore at Cow Neck. Casters have been taking fish from 2-6 lbs. on tandem hook jelly worms and eel tails. The ocean beaches have been quiet.

From the easternmost sector of the Island, Johnny Kronuch could tell us of a few more bass taken in the Montauk surf this past week. One nameless caster clicked with a 12 lber. as well as a short out of Jones' Saturday night. He used a Mirro-Lure. A couple of schoolies taken at the same location on small tins during the week. Nothing doing along Gin Beach or at Shagwong as of yet.

NORTH SHORE

Turtle Cove continues to produce lots of small bass, according to Jack of **Jack's Bait and Tackle** in City Island. Fish run from shorts up to 6 or 7 lbs. and are being taken on small white bucktails and 4½" Rebels.

John of **Glen Cove Sport Shop** said that things have been quiet along local beaches despite boatmen doing well worm trolling throughout the area. Ronnie Oldenbergh and 'meat' Johnson have been putting in lots of

time and doing very little from Matinecock Pt. to Peacock Pt.

Ronnie Ferrara knew that a few small weaks and bass are being picked at Caumsett, Lloyd's Pt. and the Cold Spring Harbor Causeway. Ashroken has also produced a few fish. Most action has been on Tri-Fin eelworms and Rebels. Harry Bifulco stopped by the shop with a 6½ lb. bass he took on a Rebel at the Causeway. This was over the weekend.

George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** in Huntington also relayed word of a few small weaks and bass at the Causeway, Lloyd's Pt., and Diamond Point. Tri-Fin eelworms and Rebels took fish up to 6 lbs. last week.

Loads of small bass from 12-14 inches with a few 16-18 inchers mixed in, vowed Tom Bowman from his Northport Store. Small tins taking many of the fish from Crabmeadow to Ashroken.

Tom Brady, who lends a hand at the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop**, scored with bass of 10 and 12 lbs. Friday evening at the Wading River Town beach on a one ounce Tri-Fin sand eel jig. Returning on Saturday, Tom drilled a 19½ lb. striper from the same town beach shore. According to Stan, who runs the Rocky Pt. shop, there are quite a few bass in the area but few have been able to do much with them.

Out at Greenport, Art White reported from his **A. P. White Bait Shop** that a few school bass are now being picked up along local beaches by some of the area regulars.

Victor Kaidash, age 10, with a nice largemouth bass taken in Well's Lake in Smithtown. The bass fell for a search spinner.

FINAL COMMENTS

(Continued from page 27)

lucrative bit of income to remain unprostituted and not diverted from its purpose.

In more recent years, State agencies have assumed the attitude of "Damn the public." Do you want proof of this? Simple! Dig out the bills for telephone service, gas and electric service, all of which are regulated by agencies. What chance has the public to protest? State agencies cannot, have not, and will not do the jobs that it was intended they do. To trust another agency with saltwater licensing is the ultimate in stupidity. For many years we on Long Island were represented by Duryea of Montauk in the State Legislature, and sport fishermen suffered horribly because he was unwilling and unresponsive to all but commercial fishing and commercial shellfishing interests in which I might add, the Duryea family had a personal stake and ownership in commercial fish enterprises. We were the victims of piscatorial rape then and we would be given the shaft again.

It seems to me that L.I. Fisherman magazine is doing a monumental disservice to subscribers and readers by espousing and advocating a saltwater license. How can you justify the proposition that you defend fishermen on the one hand, while the other hand is holding the ???? that will give us the shaft.

In the final analysis, because I know what experience has taught me (namely, never trust a politician) that once bureaucrats get a toe-hold on a lucrative source, they never let go—but to the contrary, increase the tax levy, and use it any way they please. They will find some way to re-legislate a law to suit themselves.

Lastly, I am unalterably and positively opposed to saltwater sport fishermen being singled out to pay for the costs of restoring our saltwater resources, caused by the commercial fishing enterprises. There is an old saying that people are for or against something depending on whose oxen is being gored! Well, my oxen is in the process of being roasted and I damn well don't like it.

I suppose my letter won't be printed in its entirety because I offer a viewpoint different from the editorial policy of L.I.F....be that as it may, I like the magazine, and will continue to subscribe, continue to read, and will continue to write my independent views when I feel that you are wrong. **Edward F. Wild, Bay Shore, N.Y.**

***

I guess it's time I put my two cents into the saltwater fishing license controversy. I think that on the whole your ideas are sound and well thought out.

However, there are a few suggestions that I would like you to think about. First off, the $25 non-resident license fee is excessive. An out-of-stater who wants to spend a few hours snapper fishing, or even a few days of serious surf fishing should not have to fork over that kind o' bread. If faced with the decision, I feel most would ignore the law or opt for an alternate, less expensive, pastime like golf or kite flying. It would also deprive the various tackle shops of an important source of income: namely transient tourist trade. Better to have a $3 for ten day type non-resident license which would not scare most law-abiding anglers away.

Another thought would be to have "window areas"—that is piers, bridges or parks (state and Federal) where licenses are not required. This would take a lot of pressure off the enforcement and add to public good will. Since these type of areas will be in or near the big city they can be utilized by the under-privileged and those who spend only a few days each year fishing.

Finally, California has had a saltwater license for many years. Start a dialogue with people who administer that state's licensing. Find out what is good about the law and hos effective it is. Try to avoid making the same mistakes they encountered when the licensing law was conceived.

I guess that's about my two cents worth. I'm behind you and what you are doing. Bruce Sucher, Bklyn., New York.

***

As stated in your Issue #18 on the fishing license issue, "If any State monies are used for fishing facilities, the facilities must be open to the public." Come up to Rockland Lake on a weekend and see what happens when you use State monies. The small towns in Nassau and Suffolk will not take State money and open up the ramps and beaches. As you stated, we have hunting and fishing licenses already; when was the last time you saw a commercial hunter killing deer or a commercial fisherman dragging a stream. We have hunting licenses and very little land to hunt on.

Commercial fishermen keep dragging our bays from South Shore to the Peconics. Pass laws to STOP THE DRAGGING IN THE BAYS before asking for a saltwater license. Bob Codman, Valley Cottage, NY.

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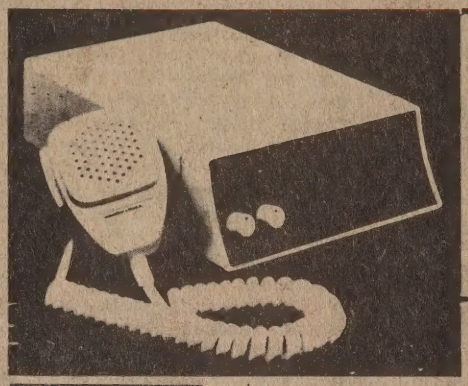

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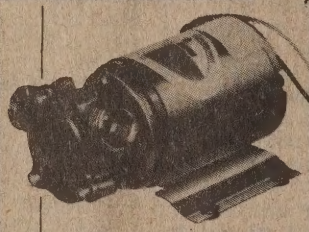

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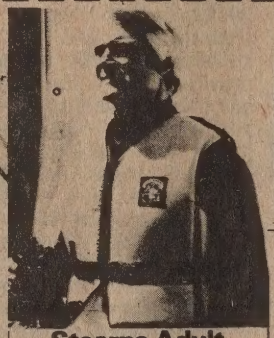

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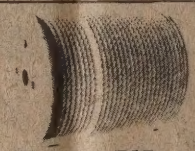

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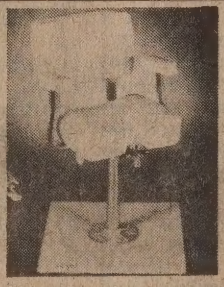

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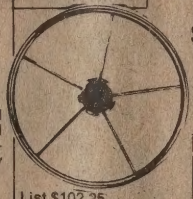

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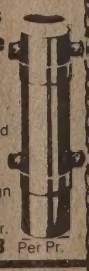

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